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The old Castle Vennal of
Stirling

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THE OLD CASTLE VENNAL OF STIRLING

AND ITS OCCUPANTS,

WITH THE OLD BRIG OF STIRLING.

The Old Castle Vennal Of Stirling And its Occupants, With the Old Brig of Stirling.

BY

J. S. FLEMING, F.S.A. (Scot.),

*Author of "OLD LUDGINGS, CASTLES, AND MANSIONS OF STIRLING NOBILITY,"
"OLD NOOKS OF STIRLING," &c.*

Illustrated by 80 Pen and Ink and other Drawings by the Author.

WITH INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER BY

JOHN HONEYMAN, Architect, LL.D., R.S.A.,

Late Preses of Glasgow Archaeological Society, &c., &c., &c.



STIRLING:

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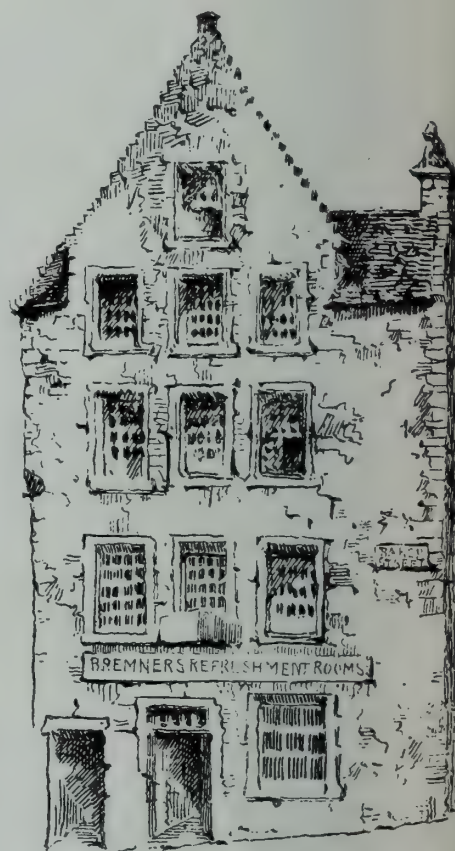
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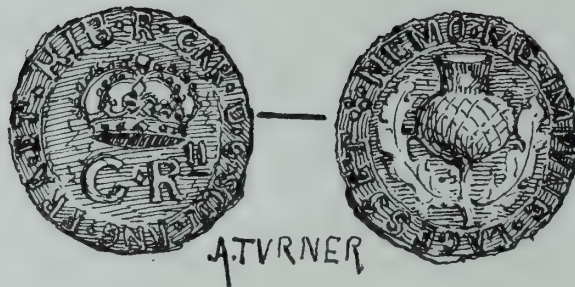
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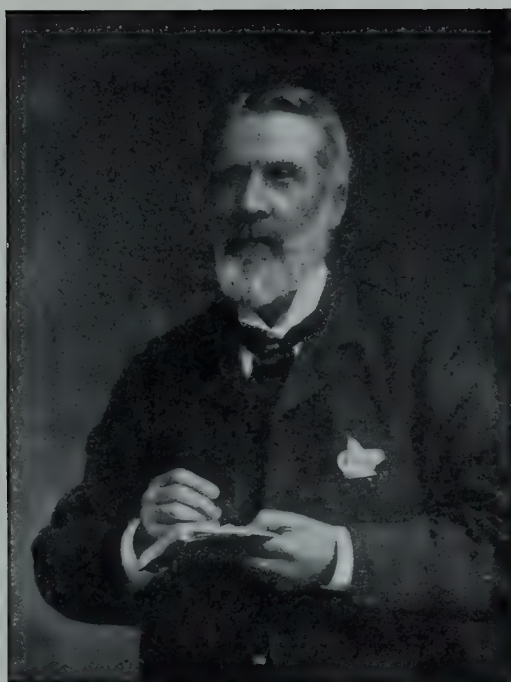
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COLOURED DRAWING OF MAR'S LUDGING in Special Copies.	



OLDEST HOUSE, BAKER STREET.



The Earl of Stirling received a concession to coin the copper money from Charles I., the consideration, £6000. This was confirmed by Charles II. on 18th September, 1634, the consideration a debt due by the Crown of £10,000. No profit arising therefrom, his son, John, General of the Mint, coined the famous *turner* (named after the French *tournois*), of *one* farthing in weight and value, but declared to be legal change for *two* farthings in currency.



MR. J. S. FLEMING, F.S.A. (SCOT.).

Preface.



HE favourable reception accorded to my work on "The Castles and Mansions of the Old Stirling Nobility," and a paper, with illustrations, read by me two years ago to the Antiquarian Society of Scotland, on the Ruined Mansion of Regent Mar, containing much of local interest, has encouraged me to use that paper and the remaining materials at my disposal

in the production of a short monograph of the "Castle Vennal or Wynd," one of the most interesting quarters of Stirling. There is little of ancient architecture to be seen there now, but I have the good fortune to possess a pen drawing made by me from an early painting by Sir Geo. Harvey, hitherto unpublished, of this picturesque Vennal, about 1834, and sketches made by myself in early life of buildings which have long since been destroyed, together with two or three others I have been able to copy from old pictures and engravings ; and with these and recent sketches of the most important buildings still standing, I trust I have been able to give some idea of the ancient appearance of the wynd. I have to acknowledge my deep obligation to Dr. Honeyman for writing the valuable introductory chapter at my request, and also express the various obligations I incurred to the late Thos. L. Galbraith, Esq., Town Clerk, not only for the loan of Sir Geo. Harvey's painting, but for much other special and sympathetic assistance, as well as for access to the Burgh Registers, and similar acts of courtesy.

J. S. F.

August, 1906.



MAR'S LUDGING, MAIN ENTRANCE.



THE CASTLE VENNAL.

Introduction.



WHAT Scotsman, standing on the ramparts of Stirling Castle, and gazing on the magnificent plain girded on the west and north by the distant range of the Grampians, can do so without emotion, and without being tempted to say, with pardonable pride, to himself—if not aloud—"This is my own, my native land." But it is not the beauty of the scene alone which excites his patriotic emotion. He is conscious that the

spot on which he stands, the fertile fields, and the winding river below, are consecrated by the blood of heroes, who fought and fell in defence of the freedom which he has inherited. He is proud of his ancestry, and he vows—as perhaps he never vowed before—that he shall defend the freedom they achieved, and do nothing to disgrace them. For, after all, there is a considerable suspicion of Shintoism in Scottish faith, and fortunately this has always seemed to be quite compatible with orthodox Presbyterianism.

The emotions excited by visiting the scenes of great events—especially where heroism has been conspicuous—are always stimulating and good, and are but little affected by the aspect of the scenery.

It is not the beauty of the fields of Waterloo or Bannockburn that still draws thousands of pilgrims thither; and although the little street, which is still the only approach to the Castle, commands a view hard to rival, and worth visiting on that account, it is not that which invests the place with special interest in the eyes of the lover of his country. It is its intimate association with important historical events and distinguished personages of the olden times. It would add much to the interest of any one visiting the place, examining Mr. Fleming's sketches, or reading his careful descriptions of what it is and was, if he was reminded of some of the events which occurred here in by-gone days, and made this narrow vennal notable among the streets of Europe.

The space at my disposal will only admit of reference to a few of these incidents, and such references must be brief. They are indeed intended only to remind my readers of events which

they may have forgotten, or may not have associated with the Castle Vennal—once the most aristocratic quarter of the ancient Royal Burgh.

The first I shall refer to occurred in 1304, when Edward I., with a large force, besieged the Castle, which at that time was impregnable towards the west. We are told that the King erected many engines, no doubt the latest inventions of the day, for casting iron and stone balls into and against the walls, and that he directed the siege in person, and, in doing so, was so reckless of danger that when riding near the wall his horse was struck by a missile from the Castle and a javelin pierced his own armour. The wound was slight, but his followers insisted on taking him down to the camp. Edward was brave, but an event which occurred shortly after this seems to prove that he was cruel and vindictive, and utterly destitute of that magnanimity usually associated with chivalry. After holding the English army at bay for three months, the gallant defenders of the Castle were obliged to yield, having consumed their last morsel of food. The condition on which they capitulated was that they should retain their liberty. The band numbered 140 in all, mostly knights and gentlemen of good position.

And if ever a band of brave men deserved good treatment, surely it was they. Their valour had never failed. They had yielded not to force, but to famine, and had amply proved their title to the spurs which most of them had a right to wear. To Edward's eternal infamy, these brave men, deprived of all clothing, save shirts and pants, were driven from the Castle like a pack of criminals, and compelled to kneel before him and ask his clemency; and the measure of the clemency they got was

to be carried prisoners into England. What a different spectacle the Vennal presented when, after the Battle of Bannockburn, the English garrison was allowed to march down from the Castle at liberty.

Down this same lane the youthful monarch, James II., rode with his gay companions one bright winter morning to hunt in the King's Park, but only to be kidnapped and carried off to Edinburgh by Crichton and his party. Up this way Douglas rode with a few trusty followers to keep tryst with his sovereign (this same James II.), and to meet the fate which, according to some accounts, he richly deserved. There, soon afterwards, the rebellious barons, Douglas, Ormond, and Hamilton, formally renounced their allegiance, and defied the King. And there, in striking contrast, might be seen the venerable George Buchanan leaving his picturesque lodging in the Vennal to impart to his royal pupil (James VI.) some knowledge of "humanity" at least, and such a smattering of general information as might have made a wiser man learned like himself, but only sufficed to make the vain and shallow monarch believe himself to be a second Solomon.

The following interesting extract is from an article by the Rev. Robert Munro, which appeared in the *Scotsman* of 4th July, 1906:—There are periods in the life of the learned Scotsman quite a blank. His friend, Thos. Jack, Master of Glasgow Grammar School, relates he paid a visit to the aged scholar to revise his MS. of old Ora Masticon Poeticam. "I found him," he said, "in the Royal Palace of Stirling, diligently engaged in writing his History of Scotland. He was so far from being displeased with the interruption, that he cheerfully took my work into his hands, and, after reading two or three pages, he collected together his own papers scattered on the table, and said, 'I will desist from my undertaking till I have done what you wish.'" This promise he accurately performed. A portrait, of age of about 50, supposed by Titian, was copied by Raeburn for Buchanan Society in 1814.

It is hardly possible to revert to events such as these without reflecting on the extraordinary changes, national, social, and political, which have taken place between the time when the first Edward traversed the Castle Vennal and the day when the guns of the Castle proclaimed that the seventh Edward had been crowned King of the United Kingdom and Emperor of India. There is one change of the kind suggested by our first incident which is almost forced upon our notice, namely, the enormous difference between the ancient and the modern methods and weapons. Then we find the proud King of England personally conducting a siege, and riding so close to the battlements that he is struck by missiles thrown at him by the besieged. Now, if Lord Roberts, or any other brave officer, had occasion to bombard the Castle, instead of operating from the head of the Vennal, he would probably do so from the Abbey Craig, or even from the Gillies Hill, or some more distant point on the slopes of the Ochils, with the aid of 12-inch guns and smokeless powder.

A collection of instruments of death used on the Castle Hill since it became a fortress, chronologically arranged, would be very curious and interesting. It would carry us far back into the stone age, probably to a period when the surrounding plain was one wide sound extending from sea to sea. With the earliest evidence of man's ingenuity we find that he had exerted that gift in devising offensive weapons, not all intended for game; and down through the ages, from the bronze dagger and battle axe on to the smokeless 12-inch gun, exerted his utmost ingenuity in devising means to keep his enemies as far out of reach as possible. His motive seems to be to counteract the law of

nature which decrees the survival of the fittest, and to substitute another law applicable to the human race alone—the survival of the cleverest. We practically say that Darwin's law may be good enough for the brutes, but in substantiating our new position we are guilty of acts of which the brutes would be ashamed. The pusillanimous spirit has spread vastly since the days of the first Edward. Let us hope that it may prove at last that wisdom is to be the ultimate substitute for physical fitness.

To trace the history of Stirling as a fortress would carry us a long way back in pre-historic times, as there is no reason to believe that the very first inhabitants of the country were less quarrelsome or aggressive than those of later times. Such admirable positions for defence as the Abbey Craig and Stirling Rock would be appropriated and be resolutely defended, and often change hands during many centuries previous to the period with which we are now more immediately concerned, from the fourteenth till the seventeenth century, the most interesting period of Scottish history, when her independence was regained and confirmed, and the freedom and integrity of her political and religious institutions assured. Naturally during these stirring times, Stirling being the favourite residence of the Scottish kings, the scene of many of the most dramatic and tragic incidents was laid there, and many of the most prominent actors, to whose valour and self-devotion, integrity and statesmanship, we owe so much, had their “ludgings” within the Royal Burgh and in its immediate vicinity.

We are glad to get all the information we can about such men, and a good deal may be obtained if we see and know the kind of houses they lived in. It is this kind of knowledge which

the present volume is intended to give, partly by description, and partly by a series of careful and artistic sketches. By studying those more immediately connected with the Castle, the Vennal, and others in the neighbourhood, recently published by the same author, we see that the houses of the nobility and gentry previous to the reign of Charles II. were characterised by substantiality and good taste. The traditions of the Jacobean period were not easily abandoned, and the strain of French refinement could still be detected running through both interior and exterior details in marked contrast to later work. Of the earlier period under review no complete example remains, and but few fragments earlier than the fifteenth century, and these are for the most part confined to the Castle. That there must have been many buildings of greater antiquity than any now to be seen may be safely inferred from the fact that it was to Stirling Castle William the Lion summoned his national council—the embryo Parliament—in 1214 to consider what reply should be sent to the insolent ultimatum of King John of England.

Of later date, only two now remain which retain their distinctive architectural features, but these are excellent examples of their kind, and convey to us a very favourable impression of the good taste of the aristocracy of the period and their appreciation of artistic merit. Both buildings are examples of the fully-developed domestic style of Scottish architecture, when all idea of making the mansion serve also as a fortress had been given up. In the Regent Mar's house (the older of the two) there is no doubt a skilful disposition of loopholes in the octagonal towers to protect the main doorway from any sudden assault, but that is all. The other example referred to—the

Earl of Stirling's Ludging (afterwards the Duke of Argyle's)—may be taken as a favourable example of the Scottish domestic architecture perfectly developed. The general design is admirable, and the details appropriate and refined. It is interesting to compare these two buildings as exhibiting stages in the formation of our national style. Mar's Work is not characteristically Scottish either in conception or detail. The Earl of Stirling's Ludging is in both respects. The manifestation of French influence in the one is evident, but in the other it has almost disappeared. The principal indication that the architect of the latter had studied in France is the admirable general arrangement and grouping of the entrance front (1).

No doubt it may still be possible to trace back certain features to French origin, but in the seventeenth century, in the Scottish style of the century, they had lost all claim to be regarded as French; they had been naturalised, assimilated, and transformed by Scottish artists, and become essential features of a divergent style which might be said to be only distantly related. National genius had transformed and appropriated the style—I do not say refined it—adopting it to the circumstances of the time with restraint, originality, and good taste. The same remarks apply to features of frequent occurrence originally

(1) Anthony Alexander, second son of Sir William Alexander, afterwards Earl of Stirling, adopted architecture as his profession, and having completed his education by studying on the Continent two years—like many in recent years—was, on his return to Scotland, appointed King's architect. In notifying his appointment the King says:—"By his learning and travels abroad, having acquired skill in architectieure, is able to do us service." As we know that Anthony was in Stirling in 1631, we may safely assume that he was the designer of his father's mansion, the greater part of which was erected in 1632.

borrowed from the Netherlands. These and others, from whatever source derived, have, in the seventeenth century, been so modified and harmoniously blended as to form a characteristic style of great merit, and admirably adapted for combining in domestic buildings great convenience of arrangement with picturesque treatment.

The more notable buildings in the old Vennal which still remain may give us some idea of the good taste and the characteristic architecture of others which have now disappeared. Most of these have been well illustrated by photographs, but there is a charm and a preciousness in hand work which photographs do not possess, and we cannot get photographs of buildings which no longer exist, but which were carefully sketched. As one goes up the Castle Vennal, and sees only a few mouldering fragments of its ancient architectural splendour when the fashionable quarter of old Stirling, we cannot help recalling to mind how great are the changes, social and political, which have occurred. Kings and queens, dames of high degree, and gallant knights passed that way, now on pleasure or on pageant bent, anon, armed cap-a-pie, to deadly strife, to be borne along this road to their last resting-place in the Greyfriars Churchyard. The names of many such are embalmed in history for good or ill. Among such who have often come and gone along this narrow lane whom we may regard as "makers" of Scotland, Wallace and Bruce must ever retain pre-eminence, but there were many others there, who by valour and wisdom, worthily did their part in building up the national character, and even the malignant and prolonged oppression of Edward himself served to foster and perpetuate some of its noblest traits.

It were tedious to recount the various events of national importance which filled the narrow way from time to time, in peace and war, with eager crowds, triumphs, quarrels, seditions, coronations, parliaments, conventions. The last we shall mention will give some idea of the busy scene the Vennal must have presented from morn till night when, on the 10th June, 1545, a great Convocation of Lords and prominent Ecclesiastics was held in the Parliament Hall for the purpose of negotiating for a union of all parties regarding the new religion, each of these bringing into the Vennal numerous retinues, who, in their various liveries, hemmed in by picturesque façades with architectural features from France and Flanders—but none from England—combined to form a spectacle which might be almost described as the last of its kind—the last dying flicker of mediæval feudalism.

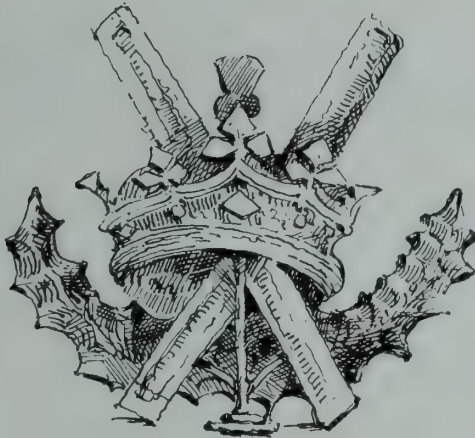
We must here close our brief notice of memorable events connected with the Vennal. They include the downward march of the English garrison, in 1297, from the Castle, which marked the recovery of national independence and freedom. The march up to the Parliament House of the “Lords of the Congregation” in 1545 marked the recovery of freedom of conscience—deliverance from even a more cruel oppressor than Edward: a necessary complement of the freedom won on Bannockburn, which, but for it, would have remained comparatively fruitless. It required the emancipation of the intellect—the free mind as well as the free body—to produce national progress.

Along this now deserted lane for centuries there ebbed and flowed the troubled stream of regal and aristocratic life; sometimes the bells of the Greyfriars Church ringing out merry

peals, but oftener the muffled notes of mourning ; sometimes brightened with jubilant pageants and noble deeds of chivalry, but oftener clouded over by infamous intrigues and deeds of cruelty. At the head of the now silent street still stand the Palace and the Parliament House, deserted and desecrated, relics of departed dignity and power. At the foot, the ancient Church, where the voice of prayer and praise still resounds through the "long-drawn aisle." Around it spreads the quiet grass-grown churchyard—no tenantless necropolis, for there rest the men and women who in their day successively acted their infinitely varied parts, well or ill, on this little stage, to which the eyes of Europe were sometimes turned. Here, when the curtain dropped, they were laid in nameless graves, where their undistinguishable dust still lies beneath the consecrated sward. "R.I.P."

JOHN HONEYMAN.

GLASGOW.





THATCHED PUBLIC-HOUSE IN VENNAL, 1838.

The Old Castle Vennal of Stirling

And Its Occupants.



PART I.

OLD CASTLE VENNAL OF STIRLING.



“The view of the Castle Wynd, with its old buildings, form as interesting a picture of antiquity as is anywhere to be met with.”—*Old History of Stirling* (1835).

F this narrow vennal, “the interesting picture of antiquity,” we were enabled, by the courtesy of the late Thos. L. Galbraith, Town Clerk, Stirling, to make a pen drawing from an early painting by the late Sir George Harvey, President of the Royal Scottish Academy, a native of the

adjacent village of St. Ninians, who was fascinated by the artistic combination of ancient buildings in it. With the exception of the mansion of the Earl of Stirling, and the ruined walls of Regent Mar's Ludging, all buildings therein depicted are now gone. The pen reproduction of this interesting picture will be found on page facing title of this volume.

The Vennal contained, with residences of other noted personages, the early mansion of the Duke of Argyle, that of Erskine of Cardross, Commendator of Inchmahome (1); Robert Callendar of Manor; Christina Ray or Raa, Maid of Honour to the Dowager Queen Margaret Tudor (2); and also that of the learned scholar, George Buchanan, tutor to King James VI.

The Vennal, as forming the main access to the Castle, for long the residence of the early Scottish Kings and Queens, and which, in many of their reigns was also the meeting place of the Scottish Parliament, is entitled to share with the Castle itself in the historical associations attached to that royal residence.

(1) *Reg. Mag. Sig.*—17th March, 1637.—David Erskine as heir male of Henry Erskine de Cardross, his father of the Barony of Cardross, and *inter alia* the Priory of Inchmahome, and a mansion in the Burgh of Stirling.

(2) Item to Christina Ray again Yuile for her liveray gown, 3 elns rassilis blak, 25/ per elns, £6 13s. 5d. Item 59 quartar velvus (velvet), 4/. Ld. TRS. *accots.*, Vol. IV.

On 8 Jany., 1524, Jas. V., for special services bestowed and to be bestowed on him and his mother, the Dowager Queen, grants to Christina Raa a liferent of Gartincaber, *Newton*, &c., *Reg. Mag. Sig.*; and in 1525, Robert Spittal (Stirling's benefactor) appears for her in a dispute between her and a neighbouring proprietor as to their rights in a mutual gable between their properties in this wynd.—*Stirling Burgh Records*.

All royal processions, and foreign ambassadors seeking audiences of, and the members of the Scottish nobility attending on, the royal court, or assembling together in the Castle to dispose of matters of weighty importance to the kingdom, passed up and down this thoroughfare; and on one of the latter occasions the street witnessed the tragedy of the murder of Lord Glamis, which was enacted in front of Regent Mar's Lodging. On 17th March, 1578, he met David, Earl of Crawford (with whom, although they were related, he was at feud), in front of the Regent's mansion, and they had passed each other without incident, when, in the scuffle brought on by two of their retainers quarrelling, he was shot in the head, and died almost immediately.

It may be accepted that every King and Queen of Scotland, and even Edward I. of England when besieging the Castle in 1304, down to 1681, when the Duke of York, afterwards James II., was a guest of Argyle in the Earl of Stirling's mansion, and his other guest, the Duke of Cumberland, in 1715, have trode its street. And James IV., as being favourable to the Castle as a residence, more often so than any other of his ancestors: Sir Walter Scott depicts him as passing through the Vennal, when issuing from the Castle gate—

“ Echoed loud its flinty street
Beneath his courser's clattering feet,
As slowly down the steep descent
Fair Scotland's King and nobles went ;
While all along its crowded way
Was jubilee and loud huzza.”

—*Lady of the Lake.*

The Vennal is the most interesting, by reason of its antiquity, of all the Stirling thoroughfares, not excepting the Hie Gaite or Market Square (Broad Street), with its town cross, the centre of civic life in the middle ages. The peculiar architecture of the ancient mansions of the Scottish noblemen lining either side of the street, attracted, with the Castle, the attention given by old observant travellers to the town of Stirling in the seventeenth century, amongst them Taylor, the London waterman poet, and the famous Daniel Defoe (1).

(1) *London Waterman Poet* (1618).—"After visiting Sir George Bruce at Culross, we went ten miles to Stirling, and lodged there at Master John Archibald's, where I had no room for the good cheer I had there. I do compare the Castle to Windsor, less in greatness, yet I dare affirm His Majesty hath not such a hall [Parliament House] to any house, neither in England or Scotland, except Westminster Hall. It surpasses all the halls for dwelling-houses ever I saw for length, breadth, height, and strength of walls." (2) The novelist, *Defoe*, who visited it in 1761, says—"It is the nobelest hall I ever saw in Europe, superior to that of Westminster. The park large, and walled round, but little or no wood in it. The Earls of Mar, hereditary keepers of the King's children and this Castle, had an house at the upper end of the town, very finely situated for prospect but not for vicinity, being too near the Castle, and between it and a besieging army." (3) *Kirk's Travels*, 14 Augt., 1677.—"Visited Stirling. Here is a new house of the Earl of Argyle (formerly Earl of Stirling's), and an old one of the Earl of Mar's with an excellent front to the market place, and having many statues on it. The town, not many curiosities: only an hospital built by John Cowan, and an indifferent good church. The town, not large nor well built. Saw the hull of the ship that was used at King Jas. VI.'s baptism in the chapel hall, much out of repair." (4) *Thorseby* (1681).—"Thence to Stirling, a fair town: a curious large church, stately hospital founded by Cowan, a strong castle, and many noblemen's houses—the Earls of Mar and Argyle being specially mentioned. And (5) the learned and much-travelled Irish Bishop *Pocock*, M.A., L.B., LL.D., 8 Sept., 1760.—"Crossed the Forth by a fine bridge of four arches; Broad Street leads to the Castle, the rest of the town ill laid out. No

remains of the Franciscan Friars Monastery, now a garden called the Friary. It was founded by Jas. IV. in 1494, who personally dined with and assisted the monks at mass. Got no account of where the Dominican Monastery, founded by Alex II., had been. Rich. II. said to be buried in it. The upper end of Broad Street, a magnificent building [Earl of Mar's Lodging], altho' in the bad taste of Jas. V.'s time, and of the Palace in the Castle of the most extraordinary architecture of Jas. V., with strange kind of pillars, one over another, and as strange figures, when architecture in Italy was at its highest perfection."





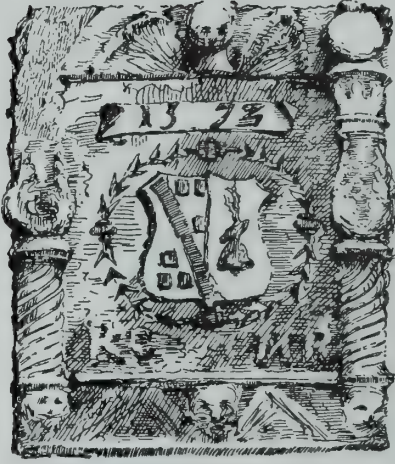
NEWTON MANSION, SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

COUNTRY RESIDENCES.



REGARDING the country houses of those who resided in the Vennal of Stirling, the following notes may be of interest:—

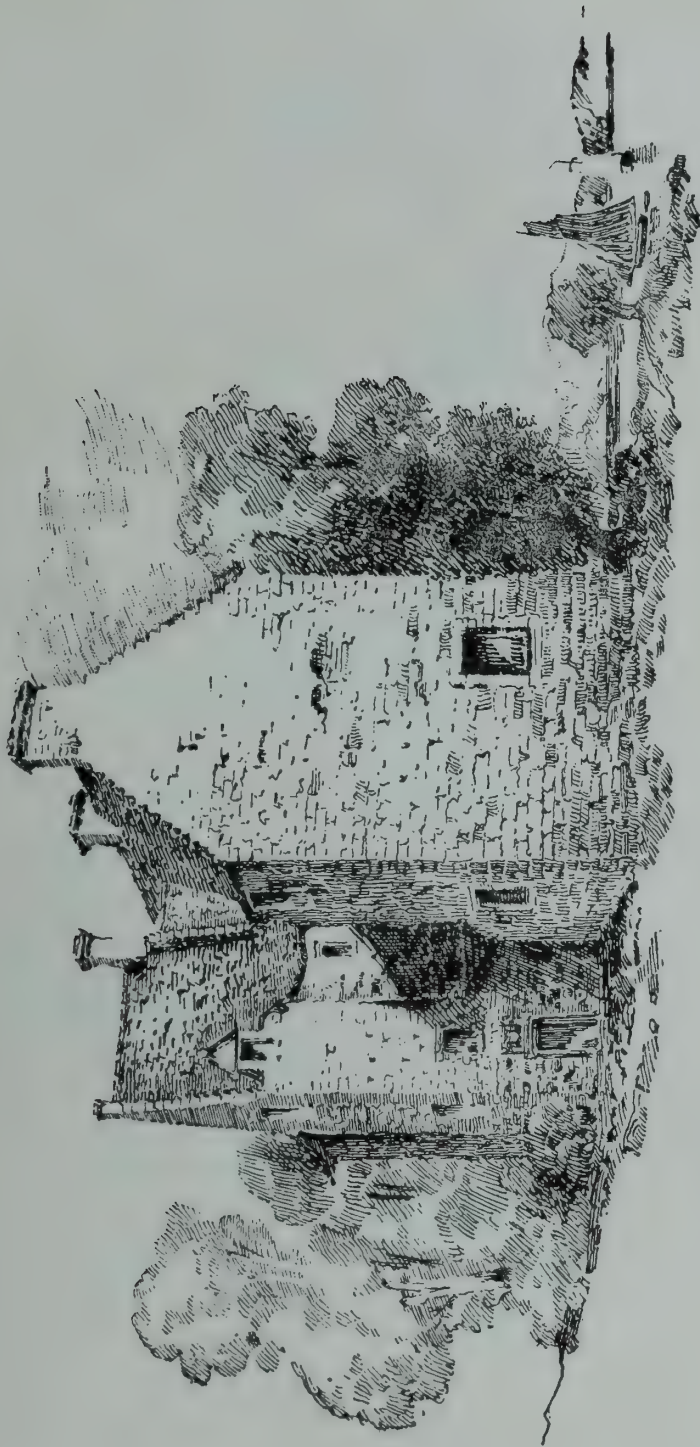
Christina Raa had a liferent in Newton, that is, to the feu-duties paid by Sir James Edminston, the proprietor of the estate and mansion, and hereditary keeper of Doune Castle, adjoining it, to the Crown. This mansion is situated at the junction of the Ardoch stream with the Teith, and close to Doune Castle, a type of mansion of the early sixteenth century ; its name is now changed to Inverardoch.



The ruins of the Manor House (anciently named Meiyneres¹), the country residence of Robert Callendar, stands on the banks of the Forth, midway between Stirling and Alloa. Callendar married Margaret Reid, and the panel originally on the house contains his arms impaled with hers, and their initials and the date of erection, 1572, of which I give a sketch taken by me in 1858.

There is now only a few feet of ruined walls. Callendar died about 1581, survived by his widow.

(1) Robert de Meiyneres was Sheriff of Edinburgh in 1529, and his name appears as a proprietor in Reginald More's accounts for rents of the King's lands in Stirlingshire, Skeoks, Cragorth, Auchinbuthy, and the three Tulchys (Touches).



MANOR MANSION.



GEORGE BUCHANAN'S LUDGING.



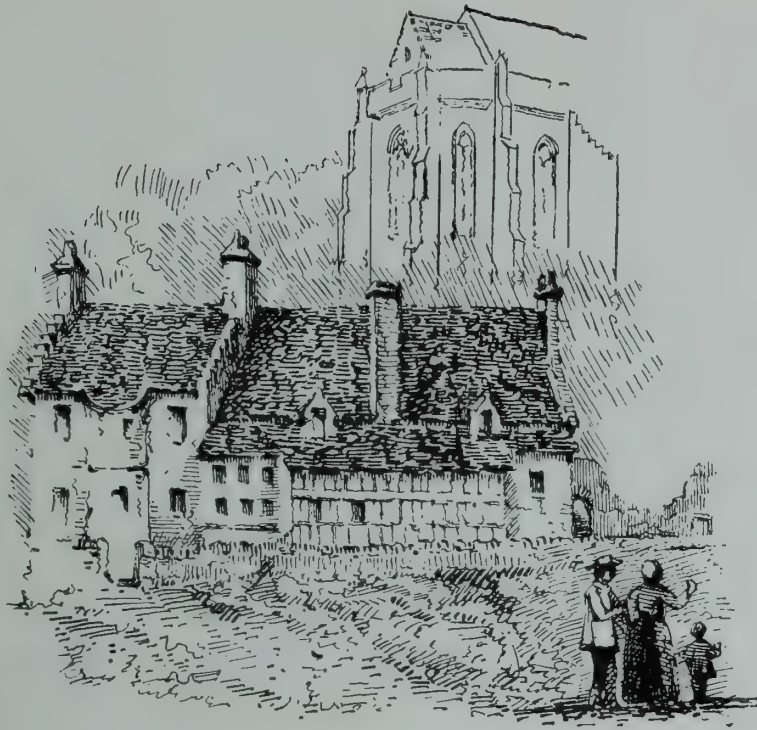
GEORGE BUCHANAN'S LUDGING.

NE of the turret houses in the Vennal, of which we give a sketch, is alleged, by tradition, to have been the residence of the learned George Buchanan, the situation being convenient for his attendance, in the Castle, on his royal pupil, and was subsequently occupied by his nephew, the rector of the early Grammar School, which stood near the top of the Castle Vennal. It is thus referred to in the "Old History

of Stirling" (1835), at which time it existed as "an old building, with round, projecting turret, said to have been erected and inhabited by the famous scholar, George Buchanan; and the house next it, with the outer staircase, is a very ancient one, having a coat of arms, now defaced and illegible;" and the writer adds, with a truthful appreciation of the picturesque in ancient buildings, "that the view of the Castle Wynd, embracing the front of Argyle's House [Earl of Stirling's Mansion], ancient houses opposite, and turreted houses adjacent, Mar's Work, and chancel of the Old Church, form as interesting a picture of antiquity as is anywhere to be met with." The ancient house with the outside stair is, almost for certain, that of Erskine, Commendator of Inchmahommok Abbey, and the defaced arms referred to, those of Erskine. This property, which subsequently fell into the hands of one Dan. Shirra, when purchased by the town and pulled down, the site being added to the Cemetery, was shown by the old title deeds to have been anciently the property of that nobleman.

A search since made of the title deeds of the whole properties on west side of Castle Wynd shows no connection of a Buchanan with the ownership of any property there, but in a sasine taken by Notary John Norrie in favour of Christopher Russel and his spouse, in 1626, the property consigned is described as "all and heal that *great* tenement of land, houses, and stable and yeard, thereof sometime pertaining to the deceased *David, Commendator of Dryburgh and Prior of Inchmahomo*, lying within said Burgh of Stirling in ye Wynd, callet ye Castle Wynd yeof—on the east [west] side of the same—between the land of the deceased Jno. Kinloch on ye west and the Castle Wynd on the east and north parts." From this examination of its position in the Vennal, I have come to the opinion that the *great tenement* is the turret tenement alleged to be George Buchanan's house, and belonged to the Erskine family.

This description is repeated in disposition by John Matson, February 27, 1742.



ANCIENT WOOD-FRONTED HOUSE.

ANCIENT BUILDINGS.



AT the corner of Broad Street, but within the boundary of the Vennal, stood one of the very few interesting wooden-fronted old houses of which the projecting galleries were prominent features, and under which the tradesmen's booths, so often referred to in the Burgh Records, were used for the display of their wares. We give a pen sketch from Grose's drawing. The turreted house on the left existed in our day, occupied, as it was

the fate of all the Vennal historical houses to be, by tenants of low repute. An old oil painting of the late seventeenth century shows the timber front erections in fuller detail. Chambers' "Old Stirling" takes notice of this building "as a curious, antique house, on the east side of the street, between Mar's Work and the Church, adding to the picture of antiquity." The building was removed in 1830.

The thatched public-house (shown by the pen sketch heading page 29, made from a poor engraving of 1838) existed in our day, and was occupied latterly by Dan. Shirra, previously referred to. It was a popular house of call for the horse dealers and farmers frequenting the horse and cattle market, then held in the adjacent valley. It also was pulled down, and its site, along with a walled garden at the back, added to the Cemetery.



ALMS-HOUSE (OLD MANSE).

OLD MANSIONS.



LITTLE further down the Vennal, connecting with St. John Street, the former South Gaite, and near the chancel of the High Church, stood a specimen of sixteenth century characteristic Scottish architecture, shewn by this sketch. It was used in its early days as an alms-house, and was subsequently, for want of means for its support, transformed into, and

used by, the parish minister as the manse. Some part of the ruined foundations stood in our day, and when removed, and this part of the street sloped down to lessen the immediate declivity, at this point very steep, it was found that the garden and waste ground surrounding the manse had formed part of the churchyard, as cartloads of human bones, then removed with the soil, testified.

As an interesting and uncommon specimen in Stirling of the baronial type of ancient Scottish architecture we give this drawing, only corrected by a visit to the exact site, in its perspective and position to the surrounding buildings, taken from a rough original sketch.

To Miss Graham, daughter of General Graham, last Governor of Stirling Castle, antiquarians are all indebted, not only for this original sketch, but also for the fine drawings of Stirling Carved Oak Heads as produced in the book, "*Lacunar Strivilensis*," edited by the historian Tytler (1).

(1) A brass tablet in "Garden Aisle" bears the following:—"Beneath the floor rests a brave and distinguished soldier, Lieutenant-General Samuel Stevenson Graham, eldest son of Dr. Thomas Graham, etc., b. 20th May, 1756, d. 20th January, 1831, etc. For his services he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Stirling Castle, which office he held for 30 years."



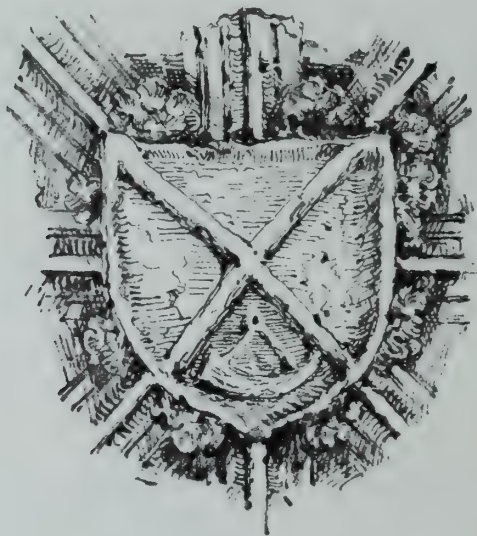
CHAPEL OR "GARDEN AISLE."

"GARDEN AISLE."



THE only chapel now existing attached to the nave of the High Church is called "Garden Aisle." It contains four tombstones of the Forrester family of Garden, the sole ancient slabs we have. The first Duncan Forrester of Garden, Gunnershaw, and Skipynch, was on such intimate relations with James IV. that the latter favoured him with many honours, and stood "hufe," or sponsor, to his son Duncan's child, baptised in the adjoining High Church in 1498, giving a handsome present. His Ludging stood on the north side and at the foot of Broad Street, and he burdened $2\frac{1}{2}$ riggs of his land, with 13/ annually,

to the altar of the Holy Cross for prayers for his own and the souls of Margaret Forsyth and Margaret Bothwell, his wives. The aisle, under whatever name it went previous to the Reformation era, was exclusively the ancient private chapel of the Forrester family. The initials, D. F., appear over the west window, and the family arms, a slung hunting-horn, on a shield



appear sculptured on the boss stones at the junction of the ribs of its vaulted roof, the usual position for the arms of a family erecting and endowing a private chapel or an altar in a church. As an example, the boss stone still exists containing the Livingston family arms, which came from the vaulted roof of the demolished "Calendar Aisle" attached to Falkirk Church; and more apt examples might have been seen in the shields sculptured on the boss stones of the vaultings over the various

bays of the side aisles in which the altars were placed in the West Church itself, until recently, for these are now nearly all effaced. The careless treatment and indifference shewn to these sculptured shield bosses, by which evidence would have been afforded to identify the positions of the various altars in this church dedicated to the saints of which many local noble families were known to be the patrons, is regrettable.

This chapel, subsequently converted into the family sepulture, had originally only two walls, the west wall of a prior building, now demolished, forming its east wall ; a string course in the base of the chancel of the church has a knee stone where it terminates at the modern building connecting the two churches, which shews that this string course had been carried north round some building, erected where the transept, if the church had had one, would have been situated. When converted

into the present family vault, the arched opening on the south, connecting it with the church, was built up, and a door was made in its west wall, the lintel, with initials, D. F., now



forming that of the window, but is now restored.



The tombstones, four in number, of which only three have inscriptions, are—



(1) That of Alex. Forrester of Garden and his spouse, Jean Erskine, contains the Latin inscription, "*Soli deo honore et gloria,*" date of his death, and shields, bearing their respective arms, and also the initials of his son, Duncan Forrester, and Mary Erskine, his spouse. Sir Alexander was Provost of Stirling, and held the office of Hereditary Keeper of the Royal Forest

of Torwood, and built the large mansion, now in ruins, known as Torwood Castle. The lintel stone bears the year 1566. We give a reproduction from a water-colour drawing of this extensive ruin, and a pencil sketch of the broken door lintel containing the

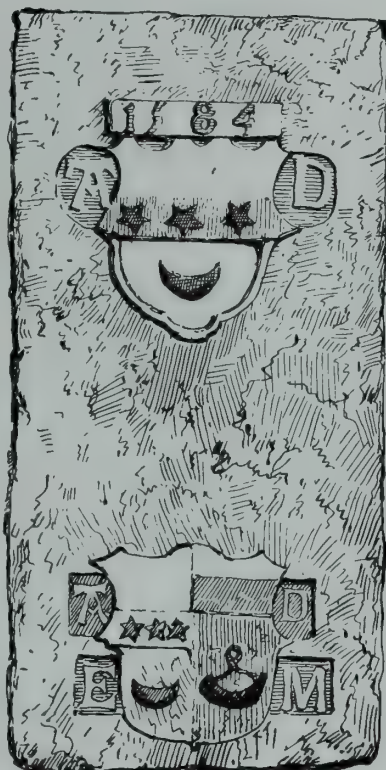


From a Water Colour by J. S. Fleming.

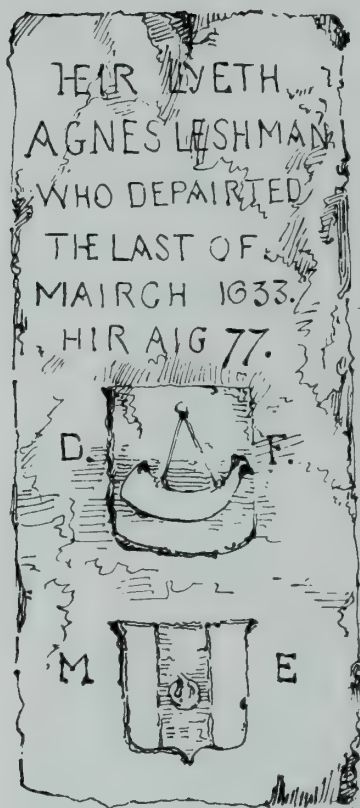
TORWOOD CASTLE.

date, for the photograph of which lintel we are indebted to Mr. John E. Shearer.

(2) The second contains the date 1584 and the respective initials and arms of Alexander Durham of Mollet, and of Elizabeth Murray, his spouse, the shield at the bottom having his arms impaled with her arms. He was comptroller of the unfortunate Queen Mary's household, and is designed as "Argentor to His Majesty" James VI., and, on that king's succession, was called upon by an action taken against him in the Court of Session by the Lord Treasurer, to account for a deficiency of £10,000 in his accounts (1). He seems to have succeeded Sir Duncan Forrester as comptroller of the Queen's household, and was probably also a relation, which would account for his obtaining sepulture in the Forrester vaults.



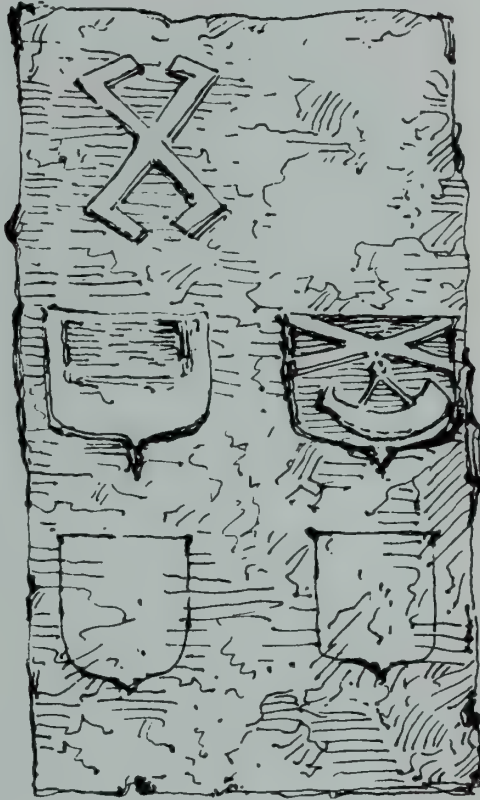
(1) Alex. Durham of Mollet, "Argentor to His Majesty" (Jas. VI.), married to Eliz. Murray, compears by his son James in an action at the Lord Treasurer's instance in the High Court to account for a shortcoming of £10,000 when he was in office. He declines the jurisdiction of the Lords of Session, "as he was 'nocht' subject to their jurisdiction, seeing he dwells in the parish of Stirling



(3) The tombstone of Agnes Leishman, with initials, D. F. and M. E., and heraldic shields of the Forrester and Erskine families, may also be ascribed to a relationship. She was apparently a daughter of John Leishman of Waltoun, and his wife, Elizabeth Alexander, aunt of the Earl of Stirling; and, if so, her sister, Janet, married Adam Bruce, whose ancestor was Margaret Forrester of Torwood. Elizabeth Alexander getting infestment, as heir of Duncan Forrester of Arngibbon, of land near Queenshaugh also shews her relationship to the Forrester family.

where his residence is." His defence, on the merits, is that the money was applied for furnishings to our Sovereign's mother (Queen Mary), and was accounted for in "the household buikes." The date on the tombstone is apparently the year of his death, as in the Exchequer Rolls of 1589, appears an item: "To Elizabeth Murray, relict of Umquhile Alexander Durham for hir pentioune aucht to hir of the firmes of the lordship of Stirlingshire extending to 2 chalders of beir of Stirlingshire."

(4) This slab contains neither initials nor date, but has four heraldic shields, two with Forrester arms (one obliterated), and above it some symbol; the lower two are simple incised lines in the form of shields.





ARCHWAY, 1674 ⁽¹⁾.

(1) This fine arched gateway is said to have had a balcony over it, which added considerably to the effect, but was removed prior to 1830, and when the roofs of the mansion were found to be in great disrepair.



PHOTO. OF OIL PORTRAIT OF THE EARL.

PART II.

EARL OF STIRLING'S MANSION.



THIS extensive building, with its imposing gateway, occupies the whole of the north side of the Vennal, and competent authorities unanimously give it the distinction of being the most perfect specimen of a Scottish nobleman's ancient

"ludging," or town mansion, existing in Scotland. From the

garden in its rear a magnificent and extensive view is obtained of the far out-spreading Carse of Stirling, with the silver streak of the river Forth through it. The Earl describes the view thus :—

“ As Forth at Stirling glides as if it were in doubt
Which way she should direct her course,
If to the sea or to the source.”

It is bounded by the Ochil range on the north and west, on the east by the more distant Saline Hills, and overlooks the famous battlefields of Stirling Bridge (1296), Bannockburn (1314), Falkirk (1298), Sauchieburn (1488), and Sheriffmuir (1715). The original plan was of an irregular E-shape (the higher limb being the longest and middle stem of the letter represented by its handsome porch), with two towers (one dwarf), having conical roofs, in the inner angles. The tympani of its numerous dormer and public-room windows are all varied and richly ornamented with coronets and scrolls interlacing, those at the back, over the domestics' quarters, being festooned with clusters of flowers, fruit, and other garden products, in arabesque fashion, and all in semi-classical style. It is considered as having specimens of French architecture.

Over the porch is an artistic carved framed stone panel, containing the Earl's paternal and assumed Nova Scotia combined coats-of-arms, with the mottoes, “*per mare per terras*,” and “*aut spero aut sperno*,” respectively (“through sea and land,” and “I hope or despise”). Internally it had a noble entrance hall, now sub-divided by partitions, with large fireplace, having massive stone jambs, and lintel with sculptured

figures; on the first floor, a lofty baronial hall, panelled in oak, and similarly sculptured massive stone fire-place; a wide oaken balustraded staircase communicating between the two floors, originally having carved oak figures, now gone, at the landings. All the internal stair steps are peculiarly moulded.



THE MANSION FROM ESPLANADE.

A small oratory, with niche in the east wall for a saint's image, enters immediately off the hall. The Duke of Argyle, who subsequently acquired the mansion, extended the south wing, making it uniform with the north one, and erected an

ornamental arched gateway to the street, with two small hexagonal towers flanking the internal side of the gateway, thus forming a courtyard (having a short flight of steps to reach the gateway) of 47 feet square.



THE COURT.

The centre original building is 90 feet long and three storeys in height, with three tiers of windows, the lower series being barred, while the domestic offices were in the west or north-west wing. The ornamental windows, 14 in front and 13 to the back, all differ in the design on the tympani. The chimney-heads where joining the roof are ornamented with scroll carvings. The porch is $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 5 feet deep, with two

pillars and two pilasters. The date on the ancient porch and a rear dormer is 1632, but it is believed the building was begun earlier. The building of the central parts and wings are completed according to the original plan, and in harmony with each other. The initials of the Earl, and Janet Erskine, his Countess, a daughter of Sir William Erskine, Commendator of Glasgow Cathedral, with their coronets, appear on the two dormers of the north wing. On the southmost hexagonal tower, built by the Duke of Argyle, is the date 1674, and the Duke's crest, a boar's head, which also appears on the window and door heads of the parts he built, including a tenement, partly in ruins, facing Castle Wynd.



DRAWING OF MANSION AS IT APPEARED IN 1635.



VIEW OF BACK OF MANSION.



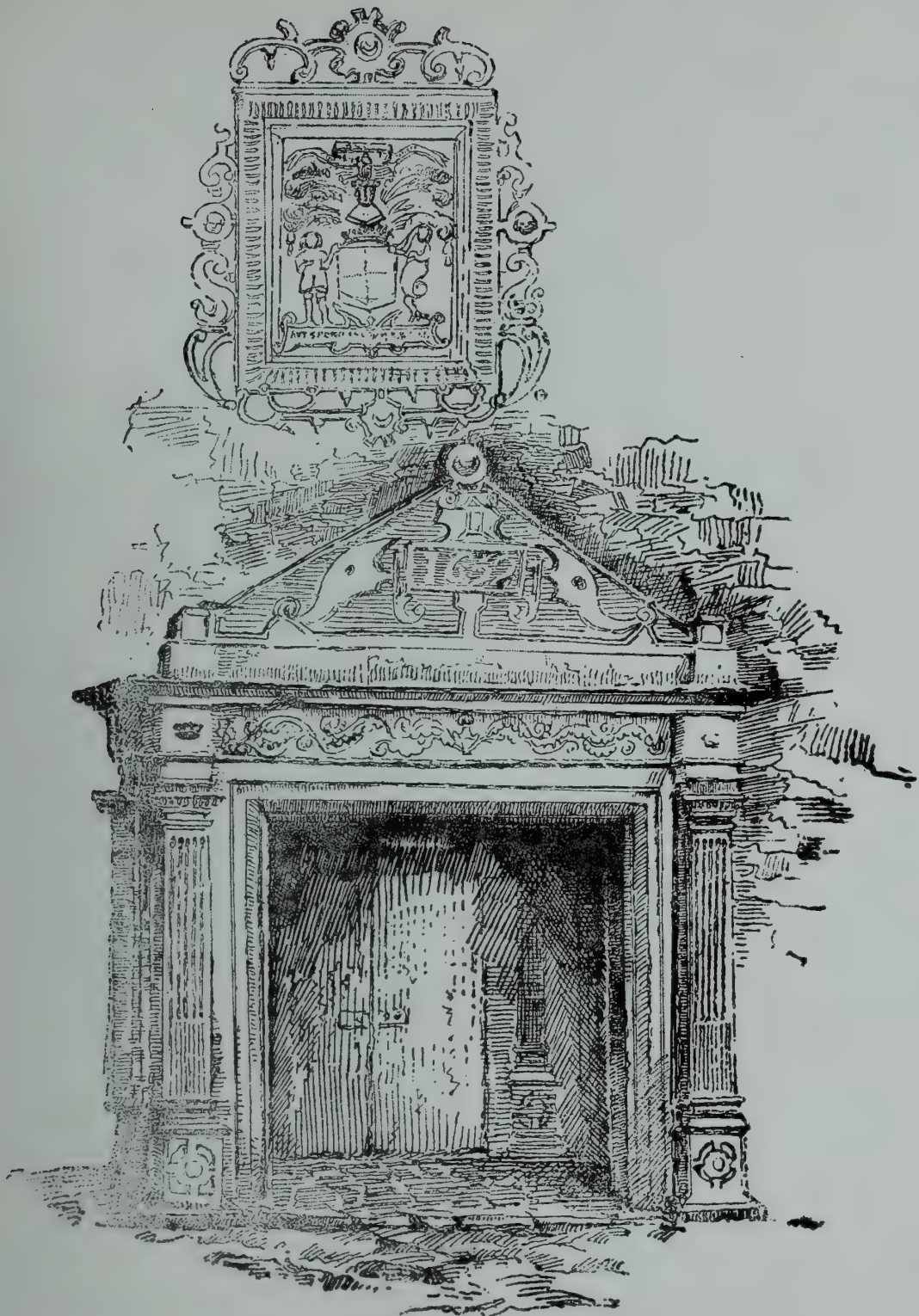
GARDEN to the rear of the mansion seems to have been laid out with terraces, and the prospect from it is unsurpassable. It now lies waste, part of it being a washing green, and it and the whole buildings have suffered severely by the operations of the Board of Ordnance in suiting its occupancy for a military hospital, windows being bricked up, sculptured work covered with

plaster, and other more objectionable alterations made on it and the garden.

The fine building was erected, or at least begun, about the year 1630, and carried on from time to time as the Earl's financial position enabled him—(he ever seems to have been borrowing)—and was occupied by him in the autumn of 1635. The Viscount had in that year been, by direction of Charles I., marshalled by Lyon King of Arms, allowing to him his arms, quartered with that of Clan Allister, who had acknowledged him chief of their clan, and had been entered, along with Archibald Alexander of Tarbet, the actual chief of the clan, as burgess of Stirling, on 10th August, 1631, the year preceding the mansion's erection, and he was then resident in Menstrie House, where Drummond, the poet, visited him.

This mansion was heavily mortgaged to Spittal's Hospital, Stirling, and on 11th September, 1655, George Robertson, one of the masters, reports to the patrons of the Hospital, that "all the Earl of Argyle [Archibald, 9th Duke of Argyle, who obtained possession only in 1661] would give for Charles Alexander's house was £1000 in four years' time, the masters to get all the plenishing put in for the *poor*" (1). To such base

(1) "The plenishing put in *for the poor*." What a degradation to those apartments, adorned when in the Earl's occupancy with the most sumptuous furniture which wealth could procure. A glimpse of the Mansion's contents is obtained from an assignation granted to his creditors of his whole estates and offices, "and to the hail furnishing and plenishing, to witt—hangings, beddes, with thair courteins, and hail furnitouris belonging thairto, tabbllis, buirds less or mair, chyris, stoollis, naprie, borddis, chyneys and thair pertinent, and hail remanent furniture presentlie standing and within that our great ludging within the Burgh of Stirling, mentioned in the Buik lyand within said ludging."



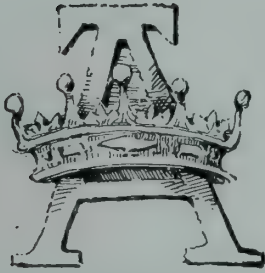
PORCH AND HERALDIC SHIELD.

use had this magnificent mansion, within fifteen years of its noble owner's death, and twenty-three of its erection, been put to—a common poorhouse for the indigent and vile.

The Duke of Argyle's additions, erected subsequent to his acquisition, are of inferior style, while bearing out the general architectural character of the main building ; and from the early dilapidated appearance—part having fallen down in our day—shewn by the existing parts, must have been erected less substantially, and of less durable materials, in contrast to the original main mansion, which remains unimpaired and in its original external magnificence.



GATEWAY, WEST VIEW.



ARGYLE entertained Charles II., when Prince, within its walls, and in February, 1681, also James II., then Duke of York. The Earl himself resided in it in 1715, when his forces were encamped in the King's Park, Stirling, previous to the Battle of Sheriffmuir, November, 1715; the last royal resident being the Duke of Cumberland, in 1746, while on his way north to the field of Culloden.

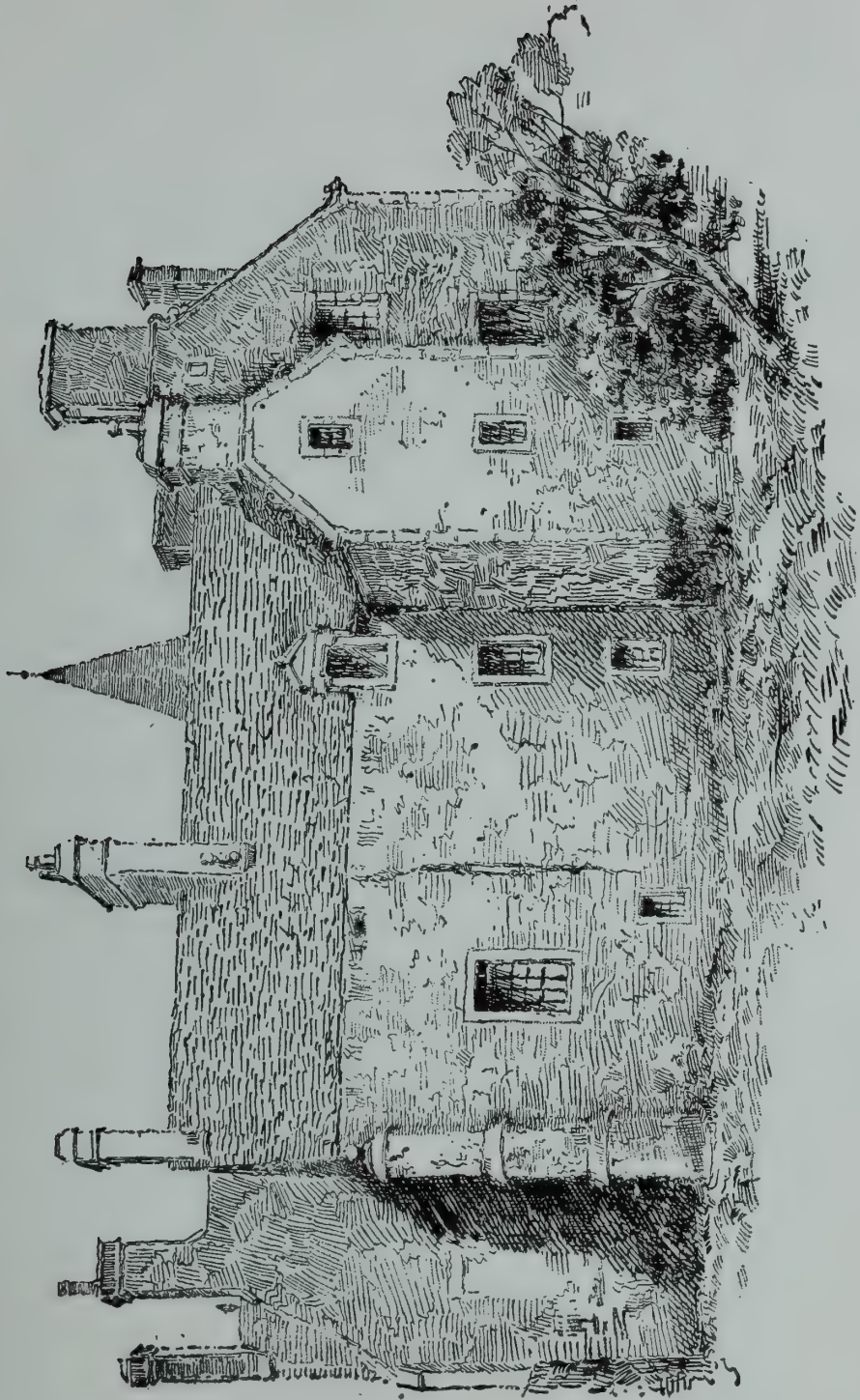
The mansion, large garden, and aisle were sold by the Duke of Argyle on 20th December, 1764—that noble family having held it exactly 100 years—to James Wright of Loss, and Robert Campbell, merchant, for the miserable price of £560, and, being divided, the former sold the mansion house and part of the garden and aisle to James Wright, writer in Stirling, who built himself a dwelling-house on a retained part of the garden, and re-sold the mansion and other parts of the garden, early in 1800, to the Government War Department, who still hold it, for a military hospital. While in Wright's possession, in 1790, this magnificent building seems to have been sub-divided into apartments, and let to several poor families, and is then described to be in great disrepair.

The aisle (1), the Earl of Stirling's family sepulture, had been partly re-built when acquired from Spittal's Hospital by the Alexander family, and the upper part and seat, made by Sir Anthony into a family pew.

In addition to the members of his own family interred therein, the Earl had previously removed to it the corpses of his father-in-law, Sir William Erskine, and his wife, Joanna; and a monumental tablet, having, no doubt, Sir William Erskine's armorial bearings, referred to in the annexed note, thereon, was erected by the Countess to her parents' memory on the outside of a buttress of the church, with the following inscription :

Hic jacet in spe resurrectionis.
 Gulielmus Æreskinus equestris,
 Ordinis, cum Joanna conjuge,
 Illustri et communi Æreskinorum
 Familia orta, singulari virtute
 Femina, unica filia superstite,
 Quae postea Gulielmo Alexandro,
 Equiti egregio, Jacobo Regi ab,
 Supplicibus libellis, Carolo
 Regi ab. Epistolis, proventusque
 Regni anonis, nupsit,
 Eam filiam Amor
 Ejus numerosa sobole auxit,
 Et hoc monumentum
 Parentibus illustribus
 Posuit.

(1) *Bowie's Isle*, situated on the south side of the church of Stirling, was acquired by Spittal's Hospital for behoof of the pair thereof (*i.e.*, the fees from



WEST VIEW.

A free translation of which is :—

“Here lies, in hope of the resurrection, William Erskine, Knight, with his wife, Joanna, a woman of great birth, sprung from the main line of the Erskine's, leaving behind them an only daughter, who was afterwards married to William Alexander, a distinguished knight, Master of Requests to King James, Secretary and Commissioner of the Exchequer to Charles. His love hath blessed that daughter with a numerous offspring, and has reared this monument to her illustrious parents.”

Sir William Erskine, called Parson of Campsie, was younger brother of Erskine of Balgonie, and cousin-german of Regent Mar.

The tablet was torn down by Mr. James Wright, writer, after acquiring the property, and was thrown into an out-house of his residence, and is long since destroyed.

The aisle itself was removed in making some alterations on the church, and the ashes of the Earl, found in a lead coffin, and those of the members of his family, along with the remains of his father and mother-in-law, were scattered to the winds.

interments), from Bowie, on 26th February, 1615, repaired 9th May, 1624; and on 13th August, 1631, John Cowane (Stirling's benefactor), makes application on behalf of Lord William, Viscount of Stirling, concerning umquhile Sir William Erskine, to be allowed to be put up “arms in the hospital isle quhar the said umquhile Sir William his corpse lieth,” either without claiming the property of said laire or to pay or buy the isle of the toune, and reports that on 4th October he had sold the ile and seat to “ane noble Lord William, Viscount of Stirling, and Lord Tullibody and his heirs.” On 4th September, 1632, the Kirk Session of Stirling ratifies and approves of the disposition by the masters of the Hospital, in name of the puir, with consent, to my Lord Viscount of Stirling, of their isle situated on the south side of the kirk.

The whole history of the family and mansion reads like a tragedy. (1)

(1) Dr. Rogers' statement of the family history shews that Alexander Alexander, married Marion Couttie, daughter of Allan Couttie, and had a son, William, and two daughters, Janet and Christian.

William was born in Menstrie Mansion about 1567, and his father died in 1580. He was taken charge of and educated by his uncle James at Stirling Grammar School, Thos. Buchanan then rector.

That William, afterwards Earl of Stirling, married Janet Erskine, and they had eight sons and two daughters.

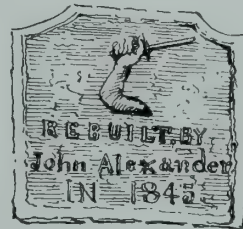
1. Sir William, the eldest, who married Margaret Douglas, eldest daughter of William, Marquis of Douglas, predeceased the Earl, had a son, William, born 1632, and two daughters, Catherine and Margaret. He succeeded his grandfather as second Earl in February, 1640, but died following May.
2. Sir Anthony married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry Wardlaw; died 17th December, 1763, but leaving no son.
3. Henry married Mary, daughter of Sir Peter Vanlore, Bart. He succeeded as third Earl on death of his nephew. He died 1650, and was succeeded by his son, Henry, fourth Earl, who married Dame Priscilla Reynolds, and died in 1690.
4. John, appointed General of the Mint, married Agnes, daughter of Robert Graham of Gartmore, who made Stirling Mansion his home. He was in pecuniary difficulties, was incarcerated by his creditors, let out on bail, and died in 1641.
5. Charles married and had a son, also Charles, who died in infancy. He administered his father's estate for behoof of the creditors after John's death.
6. Ludovick, who died unmarried on attaining manhood.
7. Robert, who died unmarried prior to 1688, and
8. James, an officer in the army, who married (1) Margaret, daughter of Captain David Scrimgeour, and (2) Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. James Hay, who heired Rednock.



The old Dowager Countess, who survived her husband, received a pension of £200, retired to her eldest daughter's, Countess Montgomery, place in Newton, Ireland, and died at Mount Alexander there (1). The writer recollects of being surprised at seeing on the sign-board of an hotel in Newton Limavady, some years ago, the Alexander Arms, as emblazoned on the Earl of Stirling's

Mansion, after whom the hotel was named.

(1) The Dowager Countess' residence and death in her daughter the Viscountess Montgomery's Newton Mansion could scarcely have been at Mount Alexander, as here stated; its type (see sketch on next page) is not of so early a date. "Bally Close," the earlier Alexander Mansion, at the railway station of Limavady; a large pretentious front to the street, with back court lined with a collection of old buildings, contains on the gable of one of them the tablets here given. It is more likely to have been there. Although the date does not correspond, other of the buildings seem older than that. The Alexander Sepulture in "Christ Church" Cemetery contains no tombstone to her, and the Ritter family have no tradition of her residence or of her death there, and no personal memento has been retained.



on "BALLEY CLOSE"



The son of Viscountess Montgomery, 3rd Viscount, and grandson of Sir Hugh Montgomery, 1st Viscount, was ennobled in 1661 under the title of Earl of *Mount Alexander*.

The estate, by successive sales to the tenants, is now reduced to the demesne and a few fields, but the former is extensive, and entered by a fine avenue of old trees, half-a-mile in length, along the banks of the clear stream, the Roe, and the estate is now named Roe Park, but is best known by its old name, "Mount Alexander."

The family sepulture includes a fine Ionic cross to the memory of the *last* of the name of Alexander—Samuel Maxwell Alexander, who died in 1885. On another is recorded the death of Jane Ritter, widow of E. F. C. Ritter of Wildfield, Enfield, daughter of John Alexander.

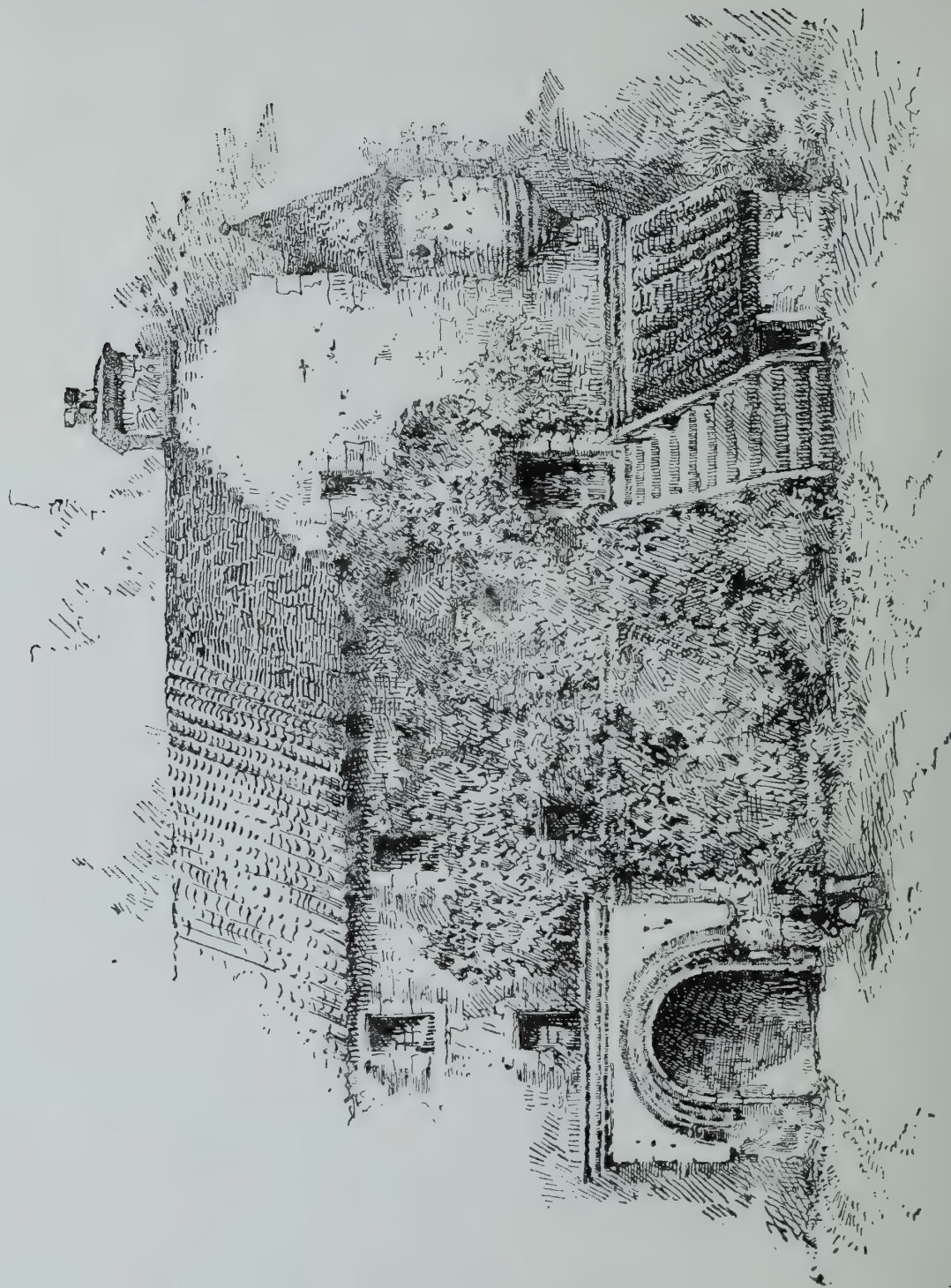
Mount Alexander is now possessed by Mrs. E. I. S. Ritter, widow of the son of said Jane Alexander or Ritter, who purchased the estate after Samuel's death. She names it "Roe Park," and in the hall I sketched the panel with coat of Alexander Arms above, which is repeated on the Alexander Arms Hotel,

"That damned wretch, with ambition blown,
These whilst he turns the wheel about,
Thrown high and low, within, without,
In striving for the top, is stumbling down :
Those who delight in climbing high
Oft by a precipice do die."

Earl of Stirling's Poems, 1637 (1).

the principal hostelry in this typical Irish town. An architecturally tasteful Town Hall, of comparatively recent erection, bearing the name "Alexander Memorial Hall," is close by the hotel.

(1) Sir Thomas Urquhart, a contemporary antiquarian, on the Earl's death wrote :—"The purity of this gentlemen's vein was quite spoiled by the corruptness of his courtiership, and so much the greater pity, for, by all appearance, if he had been contented with that mediocrity of fortune he was born into, and not aspired to these grandeurs of the Court, which could not without pride be prevented nor maintained without covetousness, he might have made a far better account of himself. It did not satisfy his ambition to have a laurel from the muses, and be esteemed a king among poets, but he must be a king of some new found land. He was born a poet, and aimed to be a king, therefore would have his royal title from King James, who was born a king, and aimed to be a poet."



FRONT, MENSTRIE HOUSE, THE EARL OF STIRLING'S BIRTHPLACE.



PEN SKETCH OF THE EARL (FROM OLD PRINT).

PART III.

FAMILY HISTORY.



EARL OF STIRLING.



GLANCE at the Earl's history reveals a personality of no common kind, and whether as poet or politician he had great pertinacity and perseverance. He was fruitful in resources for accomplishing his varied schemes of a gigantic character, in all of which, however, including his colonization of Nova Scotia, he was unfortunate. He became involved in such

pecuniary straits that, although he resorted (under his monarch's favour, exceptionably exerted in his behalf) to various questionable practices in order to replenish his purse, he seems never to have been, even in his greatest prosperity and power, free from debt, and died a bankrupt.

He was unpopular, partly by reason of his favouritism by the royal family, but mainly through his introduction of the base coinage, thrown on the nation, nicknamed "turners," and his version of the Psalms, thrust on the clergy, and also for his insatiable ambition. On his Stirling mansion one night a dirty calico painted sheet was put over his arms on the front by some wag, with the motto, "*per metre per turners*," a burlesque on the motto, *per mare per terras* on it.

In the possession of the representatives of the late Sir James Edward Alexander of Westerton, who claimed to be a descendant, and hanging in Bridge of Allan Museum, is an oil painting of a half-length portrait of the Earl. It is a three-quarter face, and painted on very old coarse canvas. The frame and its inscription and date, 1636, are modern, and no name or mark to identify the artist is on either canvas or frame. Sir James, on sending this picture to the Exhibition of National Portraits, held in Edinburgh in 1884, failed to authenticate it by filling in the blanks on the ticket, still attached, with the artist's name and where and when it came into his possession (1). We

(1) Col. E. M. Alexander, Sir James' son, writes me: "I do not know when the oil painting in the Museum Hall came into our possession," and adds, "that he has an excellent likeness of the Earl facing the 'Monarchical Tragedies,' the identical copy presented by William Alexander, afterwards Earl of Stirling, to Prince Charles, afterwards Charles I."

give a reproduction of the painting, and, for comparison, give a pen drawing of an engraved portrait attached to the Earl's "Recreations with the Muses," 1637, which does not bear the individualised sad expression of the painting. The view and pose of the head (three-quarter face), arrangement of hair and beard, the ruff and doublet, and the position of the double chain, carrying probably the St. Andrew's Badge—and the badge appears like this in the painting—exactly correspond in both. The engraver required a painting or drawing from which to make the portrait, and while, from the indifferent art work, and the doubtful age of the canvas, the one evidently not being by an eminent artist—which the Earl's ostentation was likely to select—or the latter being so old as 270 years, there may be a doubt of its authenticity, yet the expression on the face in the painting points to its being an original portrait, and that seems to forbode the calamity which afterwards overtook both his family and estate.



The family history goes back to the Earl's ancestor's possession of the old Menstrie Mansion-house and estate, which was given by the Argyle family when it came to own what was anciently named the "Castle of the Gloom," now Castle Campbell, and was held off that family in feu. The original part of this Menstrie Mansion, situated at the base of the Ochil range, on which Castle Campbell stands, was of the Scottish type of the sixteenth century, a plain house with turrets at its angles, and crow-stepped gables. It seems to have been completely changed by added buildings, when in

the Earl's possession, so as to form three sides of a square, having an east wall, thus making an enclosed courtyard, and these extensive alterations and additions, with profuse ornamentations, were apparently made by Sir Anthony. The tympani of the dormers have disappeared, but the arched gateway, the principal entrance through the west front to the court, shows a remarkable mixture of Scottish and classical mouldings, with pillar, cable, and ball-flower enrichments of an earlier style, mingled with architrave, frieze, and cornice of pseudo-classic entablature. These all retain their sharpness, free from injury and weather effects. Parts of other buildings, especially in the court, indicate an older period. These parts yet bear evidence of the flames of Montrose's burning. The orchard, remains of old trees, and traces of a drive, indicate grounds of some size formerly laid out with taste. Here the Earl was born, and here he composed most of his poems, and a room is also shewn where the famous General Sir Ralph Abercromby was born. It is now occupied by a dairyman, and the out-buildings turned into byres, cattle sheds, etc.



GATEWAY OF MENSTRIE MANSION.

ALEXANDERS.



THE origin of the Alexander family and of their ownership of this old Menstrie Mansion thus goes back to the residence of the Argyle family in Castle Campbell, when an Alexander, a son of Tarlach Mac Alexander, came from Kintyre sometime about 1481, and settled down in Menstrie under the protection of that powerful family. In 1505, a

Thomas Alexander de Menstry officiates as one of sixteen in an arbitration between the Abbot of Cambuskenneth and Sir David Bruce of Clackmannan; but he must have been a brother, as Andrew Alexander was then proprietor of Menstrie, and had a son Alexander. He appears as proprietor prior to 1527. This Alexander, who married Marion Couttie, was the parent of the Earl of Stirling, who is supposed to have been born at Menstrie about 1570. The Earl was thus the son of Alexander Alexander of Menstrie by his wife, said Marion, daughter of Allan Couttie, and had two sisters. The date of his birth, as resting on the inscription, and age *Aetatis Suae LVII.* upon the engraved portrait already referred to, prefixed to the edition of 1637 of his "Recreations with the Muses," of 1580, is disputed, and 1570 is, on not very specious grounds, substituted. Prior to 1603 he married Janet Erskine, daughter of Sir William Erskine, commendator, a lay abbot or bishop of the Bishopric of Glasgow, and had eight sons—Sir William, Anthony, Alexander, John, Henry, Ludovic, Walter, Charles, and James—of whom John, Henry, and Charles alone survived him. Sir William, his eldest son, was married to Dame Margaret Douglas, who, with three daughters, survived him. He was knighted and constituted Admiral of New Scotland, and given a seal by the Scottish Privy Council (1), and in March, 1628, sailed, with seventy emigrants, to Port Royal, Nova Scotia. He returned to London

(1) "A schippe with all her ornaments apparrelling, the mayne saile only displayed with the Armes of New Scotland, bearing a saltoire with ane scutcheon of the ancient Armes of Scotland, and upon the head of the said schippe careing ane unicorne sittand and ane savage man standing upon the sterne, both bearing Sanct Andrew's croce."



COURT OF MENSTRIE HOUSE.

in the following November, leaving them and two females with cannon, muskets, powder, and balls. He went again in June, 1629, with Lord Ochiltree, to Cape Breton to plant another colony, and on 30th May, 1630, was thanked by the King therefor (1). Lord Ochiltree and his colonists were, however, dispossessed and taken prisoners by the French. On 11th May, 1633, he received a royal patent to trade in skins, wool, etc., in the colony. He died of fever on 18th May, 1638, and was buried in *Bowie's Isle*, Stirling.

The Earl himself died at his residence in Covent Garden, London, on 12th February, 1640, and his embalmed corpse, brought by sea, was also interred in *Bowie's Isle*.

Sir Anthony was a distinguished architect in royal favour and employment. He had studied the best form of architecture for at least two years abroad (2), and on his return from France was, in November, 1628, appointed, in conjunction with Murray of Kilbaberton, master of works for Scotland, and in 1637 royal surveyor. He was initiated into the rights of the crafts at St. Mary's Chapel, Edinburgh, and chosen general warden of the master tradesmen of Scotland, receiving half of the apprentices' fees and penalties, the legality of which appointment was unsuccessfully disputed by Sir William Sinclair of Roslin. He was admitted a burghess of Stirling in October, 1632, while his

(1) The grant, by the council of New England, to Lord Alexander, included "the Island of Matowack, or Long Island, to the west of Cape Cod, to be hereafter called the Isle of Stirling.

(2) His license by Charles I., dated July, 1626, is for three years, and states that Anthony Alexander, Esquire, is "to travaille into France for the better enabling himself for our service, with two servants."—*Royal Letters*, p. 69.

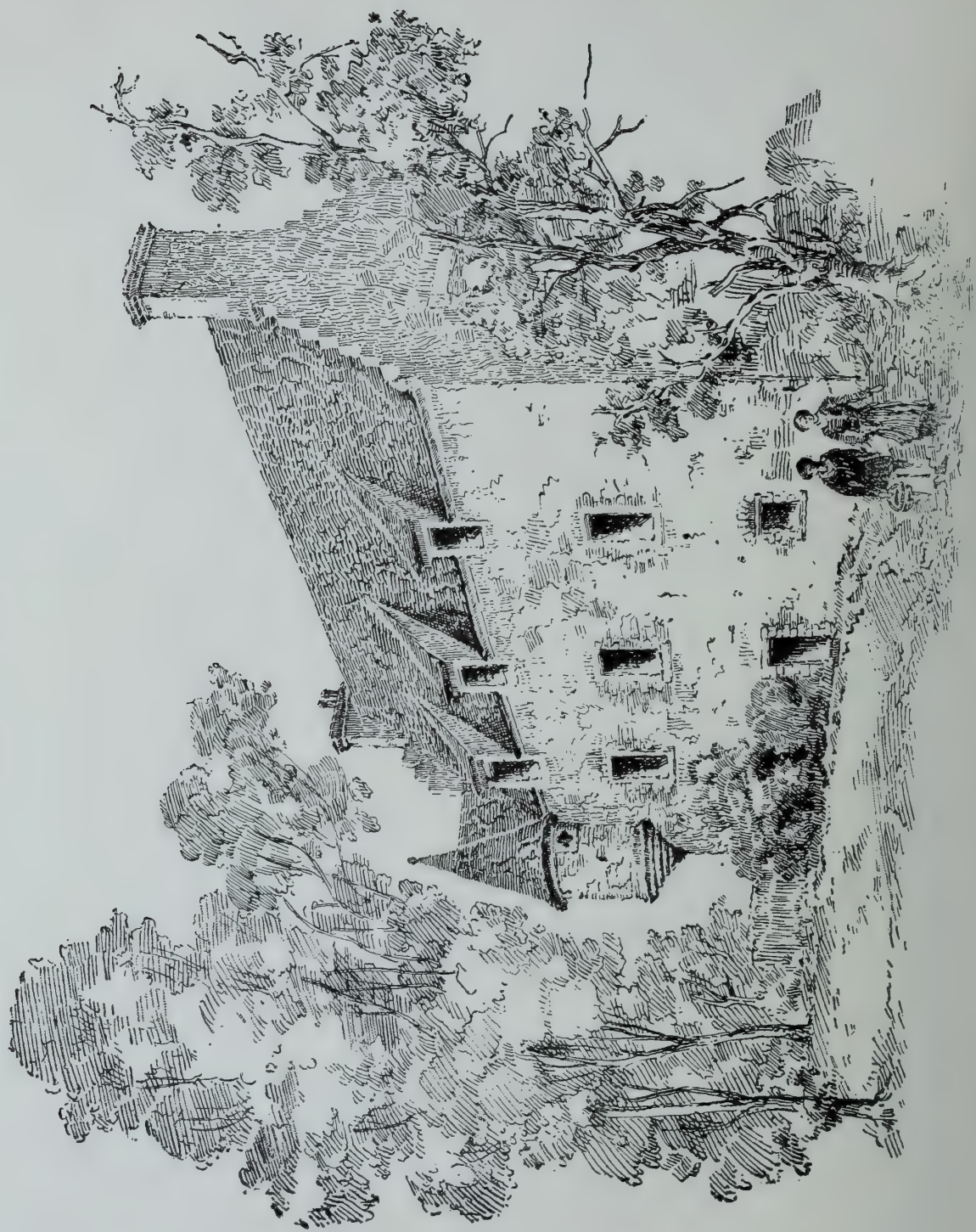
father's mansion was building, and died in London on 17th September, 1637, and his corpse, brought by sea, was interred by torch light in the family vault at Bowie's Isle. He was a man of acknowledged talent, if not genius, and general regret was expressed at his death. His work is seen in his father's mansion, erected after his return from the Continent, which bears the influence of the French architecture. He was married, but had no children. What became of his widow is not known.

John, the fourth son, was specially appointed to the office of general of the Mint, no doubt coining his father's base "turners." He survived his father, but died in 1641, followed by his brothers Henry, who, and his son of same name, were 3rd and 4th Earls, and Charles, who had survived the old Earl. The last, Charles, died about 1644, when the title became extinct for want of male heirs.

The bankrupt Earl's debts were appraised at the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, on 27th May, 1641, at £32,680, by Sir Thomas Nicolson of Carnock, who held a mortgage for 12,000 merks over part of the Earl's estate of Saltcots, in Stirlingshire, from "Henry, *now Earl* of Stirling, and John and Charles Alexander, his brothers," shews that the title was carried down. The lands of Tullibody, being subject to the Dowager Countess's liferent, who was then alive, was found unaffected by the adjudication. On 27th June, 1642, a charter was obtained by the surviving son, Sir Charles (who does not seem to have taken up his father's title), for behoof of his father's creditors, of his landed estates, and on 25th February, 1645, the widow of Sir William, Margaret Douglas, petitioned the creditors for assistance to support her three daughters.

As a scholar, young William was selected to travel with Archibald, seventh Earl of Argyle, visiting France, Spain, and Italy. He succeeded, on his father's death, to the small patrimony of the Mains of Menstrie. On 4th March, 1598, by agreement with, and on payment of 6000 merks to the said Earl, and in consideration of his "services in foreign nations and at home" (thus keeping the companionship in mind), the Earl granted him the whole lands and barony of Menstrie, "the Mains" having been previously resigned by Sir William for the purpose of incorporation by Argyle in the barony. And on 30th July, 1628, Charles I. ratifies a charter, dated 8th and 10th July of that year, by Archibald, Lord Lorne, with consent of Margaret Douglas, "Lady of Lorne," to "Sir William Alexander de Menstrie," Miles, and our principal secretary of Scotland, and Lady Jonet Erskine, his spouse, of the lands and barony of Menstrie, with Manor Place and Mill of the same (excepting Panholes) and the hereditary office of bailey of said barony. The Redd. £80.

The erection of the earlier part of this mansion would refer back to the possession of the Mains of Menstrie by the Earl's grandfather in 1527. It was burnt by the Macleans, serving with the Duke of Montrose's forces, in 1645, their clan being at feud with the Alexanders, and also for his alliance and connection with the Duke of Argyle and his party; at the time Montrose burnt his patron's adjoining mansion, Castle Campbell.



SOUTH VIEW, MENSTRIE HOUSE.



EARL OF STIRLING'S LUDGING, SKETCH FROM CEMETERY.

PART IV.

CLAIMS TO THE EARLDOM OF STIRLING.



NUMBER of claims were made to the extinct earldom and to what offices attached thereto, and to the remains of his estates which latter must, after satisfying his creditors, have been but trifling the most audacious of which was that made in 1825 by a person of the name of Humphreys, the son of a Birmingham merchant, who had gone to France, where the claimant

was born. He claimed through his mother, whom he alleged to be a daughter of the Rev. John Alexander, of Plunkett Street Church, Dublin. The claimant had married an Italian, through whom he became acquainted with a clever and unscrupulous French adventuress, Mademoiselle de Normand, who ascribed a sudden greatness as his fortune, and therefrom proceeded the most extraordinary production of documents to support the claim, afterwards found to have been forged, to substantiate his statements, the fabricated documents turning up during the legal proceedings mysteriously from anonymous custodiers, whenever a flaw or point required to be bolstered up or substantiated, with the exact evidence wanted to support the claim. He presented a petition to the Court of Chancery to be served the heir of the Earl, and also to the House of Lords, claiming to sit as a peer therein; asserted a right to create Baronets of Nova Scotia; sent out to America an attorney to take possession, in his name, of the Nova Scotia estates, comprehending what is now Long Island, New York; and had the audacity to approach the throne itself with his pretended claim in 1831. Fiction cannot surpass the extraordinary circumstances revealed at his trial for forgery.

He raised £13,000 on mortgages for £50,000 over his reputed estates. He came to visit *his ancestor's* (?) town in June, 1825. The town steeple bells were rung, and the Magistrates officially waited on him at Gibb's Hotel to express their congratulations on his assumption of the title. On 25th June they unanimously conferred the honour of a burgess on him, and the local papers of the day took notice and recorded his daily movement, as a personage

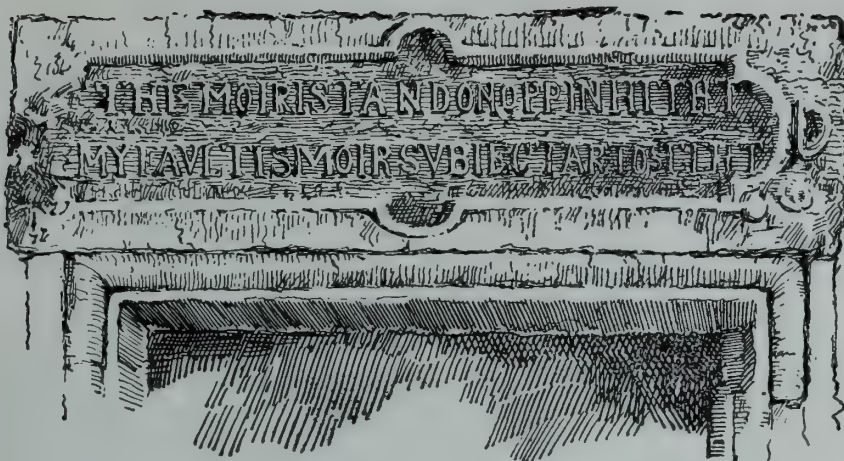
of distinction, and of his emotion on seeing his ancestor's (?) mansion; the said James Wright introducing him everywhere as the Earl. He arranged to settle down in Stirling during the proceedings for proving his title, renting a house in Baker Street, and keeping his carriage. He seems latterly to have believed himself really to be a relative of the Earl of Stirling. The verdict of the jury, on his trial for forgery, finding the documents all forgeries, but that it was not proved by whom they were forged, enabled him to escape punishment. The cost to the country of this, another Tichborne trial, which was enormous, could have been saved if the Crown had simply lodged defences, and opposed his petition for service, in the Court of Chancery at Edinburgh.

The title "Earl of Stirling" was taken in name of the Earl and *his heirs male*, which, by the death of the last survivor of his eight sons, and their sons, without either leaving a lawful son, became extinct.

A monograph by Lud. Schumacher (New York, 1897), gives the life of Major-General William Alexander, U.S. America, claiming the Earldom, whose claim, in 1760, was rejected by the House of Lords, and his claim for payment of the purchase price of Nova Scotia estates conjoined therewith disallowed. It contains a portrait of the Earl, evidently a bad reproduction of the print of 1637.



MAR'S LUDGING.



A DOORWAY LINTEL, MAR'S LUDGING.

PART V.

MAR'S LUDGING.



T the head of Broad Street stands this mansion, erected by John, 6th Earl of Mar and Regent of Scotland, and partly occupies the waste ground formerly belonging to the Corporation of Stirling, subject to an annual rent of £4; and partly the site of an old tenement acquired from a Walter Geagie, described as next to the church,

and the site of Robert Callendar of Manor's "ludging." In addition to other buildings attached to the Regent's mansion and garden, were a close, yards, wells, dovecots, the orchard, and Haining Brae. All that now remains is the roofless walls of the Mansion itself, which consist of an ornamental ivy-covered elevation with two hexagonal towers flanking a fine archway, extending about 120 feet across the head of Broad Street, formerly the ancient High Gaite. In addition to the sculptured figures and emblems, it contains in the east tower the



arms of Mar, and in the west those of Mar and Murray, being those of the Regent and his spouse, Countess Annabella Murray; and in the centre, over the archway, the royal arms of Scotland, with the date 1570. This is the date presumably of beginning the work, and this figure, suggestive of being that of the Regent himself, holds a tablet with the date 1572, being the year of its completion, and also that of the Regent's death, 28th October, 1572. It is presently

inserted in the front of a house in Craigs of Stirling.

Dr. Honeyman, LL.D., R.S.A., architect, expresses the opinion that the original Mar building, which stood exactly in the centre of an inclosure extending from the church to a point 32 feet north of the west gable, seemed to have been commenced in 1570, and was almost, if not altogether, completed at the Regent's death in 1572. The hexagonal towers have doors in

front, with internal stairs communicating with the upper storey, and on the basement three vaults or booths. The basement is isolated from the upper storey, and the centre passage through the archway has no opening on either side, nor had it a gate on the courtyard, the main entrance to the upper storey being, as he suggests, from the court side.

The eccentric genius, Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, who published the *Household Book of Mar*, inserts among its illustrations from his own pencil a sketch of Mar's Ludging, but it is a poor work of art, and meagre in detail, and delineates none of its many characteristic ornaments (1). The intention of the builder, the character of the architecture, the sculptured figures and emblems, with its significant inscriptions, coupled with the Earl's relation to the owner of the then deserted extensive monastical buildings of Cambuskenneth Abbey (2) (of which

(1) Mr. Sharpe refers to an incident connected with this sketch in a letter to Sir Thomas Gibson Craig, dated 17th January, 1828, thus: "I remember a curious incident, many years ago, in times of public peril, when I was sketching Mar's Work, a drunken soldier, pot blind, thought I was drawing the Castle, and laid hold of me and my utensils, and had not some sober women come to my rescue I might have been in a worse state than Hogarth at the Gate of Calais. You may imagine the ridiculous scene." An episode, in September, 1571, occurred during the mansion's erection. Queen Mary's party, riding at midnight from Edinburgh, took possession of the town, when Morton was killed, the aroused Regent, who resided in the Castle, then posted seven musketeers in the unfinished building, who fired a volley down Broad Street, then the High Gait, causing a panic and retreat and blocking up the narrow vennal (Bow Street), where many were trampled to death, and all fled the town.

(2) David Panter, Bishop of Ross, was Abbot, drawing the revenues, 1552-58, when he was succeeded by Adam Erskine, Chancellor of Glasgow, a nephew of

the only remains, beyond the bare foundations, are the ancient tower and a Gothic doorway), raised the traditional controversy, still undecided, of the mansion having been built with stones from the Abbey, ruthlessly pulled down and thus disposed of, and that a curse attending the sacrilege prevented it being ever finished or occupied by its builder. The history of its erection is certainly obscure ; but architects emphatically refute the above

the Regent, by grant of Mary, dated 30th June, 1562. This was in implement of a gift by her late mother to the Regent, who requested the grant to be conferred on his nephew with the patrimony of the Abbey. From a receipt by James VI., dated 10th January, 1594, to David Balfour de Inschery, etc., for 34 merks for the lands of Pullis, etc., in the barony of Cambuskenneth, formerly part of the temporalities of the Abbey, and from the King being designed as in *place of the Commendator* of the convent in a charter dated 20th March, 1593, the Crown had apparently taken re-possession of the Abbey between Adam's demission and 1608; and numerous other charters refer to the King's possession. On 23rd November, 1602, however, the Commendator grants a letter of mortification for support of the hospitallers in Spittal's Hospital, Stirling, and in 1604, John, Earl of Mar, the deceased Regent's son, confirms it ; but the charter formally conveying the Abbey's patrimony, and constituting Alexander Erskine Abbot and Commendator of the Abbey, by James VI., is dated at Greenwich, *31st May, 1608*. (The Rev. C. R. Panter, M.A., LL.D., writes me from his rectory of Wickhampton, on 24th February, 1906, the correction of his name-sake's official position, viz :—"Patrick Panter, David's uncle, was the *Abbot*, and David was Commendator. The difference between an Abbot and Commendator is this : An Abbot is the superior, *by strict title*, of the Abbey, having absolute power over its revenues and inmates. A Commendator (sometimes called, by courtesy, Abbot Commendatory) was little better than a guardian who received the revenues : the Sub Abbot being the ruler of the Abbey. This arrangement obtained in the church in order to augment the stipend of persons whose bishoprics or benefices were too poor to enable them to maintain the dignity and necessary expenses due to their positions. But, like all things human, the system gave rise to abuses. For instance, plurality of livings is only one of them.")

suggestion, and declare that all the building details have been carefully designed and executed for the positions the stones occupy, or if any of them have been so derived, these must have been altered to suit the original intention of the architect (1). No carved stone of an ecclesiastical character is embodied in the structure; and the inscriptions founded on to support the tradition have no such significance, but are mere moral or religious mottoes, as was the fashion of the period to inscribe on family mansions.



The only two emblems of a religious character are the "Bambino," forming, with its cross bandages, an upright pillar, but the face is that of an adult, and the inscription, "NISI

(1) Billings says, in his *Baronial Antiquities*, "A fanciful eye may justify the tradition by discovering that some of the rich decorations appear as if not intended for the present work; but whatever internal enthusiasm may discover, the origin has no better foundation than tradition;" and adds that "the temporalities of Cambuskenneth Abbey were not acquired by the Erskine family until the seventeenth century. His illustrations (about 1852), if correct, show several pillars and one upright figure more than the edifice now bears.

DOMINUS," under spread the wings of a cherub, a common inscription found on secular buildings of that period. Mr Archibald, a local geologist, at my request specially examined the of the existing ruins of the Abbey, and compared them stones with those of the ruined Mar mansion. He reported that both buildings were erected of two kinds of stone, and from the same quarries. This, of course, is not conclusive. In Timothy Pont's old Plan of Stirling, 1620, the mansion is shown with the two towers, having their cone-shaped roofs, and the building otherwise complete; and we have undoubted evidence in the Kirk Session and Burgh records that it was occupied, after the Regent's death, by his Countess and servants, down to about 1598 (1). As representing her husband's family, the hereditary custodiers of the Royal Princes, heirs to the crown, she had continued the charge of the infant King James VI., and that he may possibly have occasionally resided in the mansion is implied by Queen Elizabeth's letter to her, dated in November, 1572 (the month following her husband's death). She cautions the Dowager "to watch over the safety of the young Prince, her dear relative"(2).

And on his marriage, when King, in December, 1592, he and his Queen had the use of the mansion while the

(1) The widow Dowager retained the custody of the infant King, James VI., long after her husband's death, and she continues drawing her pension of £500, and gets an additional allowance along with Henry Balfour and Geo. Danskine *servitors et provisionibus domus et familie dominis regis* between November, 1572, and October, 1573, of £2218 19s. 10d.—*Ex. Rolls.*

(2) Tytler, vol. III., p. 354.

royal apartments in the Castle were being prepared for them (1).

When in her occupation the Dowager widow obtained, on 16th April, 1582, a charter from James VI.(2) of the Haugh and Brae and part of the Parkhill, taken off the Royal Park. These parts, described as on the south side of the then cemetery, now the valley, and Back Walk and Bog, and as "having remained utterly waste since the memory of man," are subsequently known as the Haining, and for which she appears paying a feu duty to the Crown of 26s. 8d. down to at least 1588. In a subsequent charter to the Regent's son, dated 3rd February, 1620, this Haugh and Brae is described as "contiguous to the garden of the Great Building, *lie New Wark*," the only occasion in which the word "wark" occurs in the title.

(1) Moyes' Memoirs of Affairs of Scotland.

(2) Reg. Mag. Sig., No. 390.



A DOORWAY LINTEL.



ACCESS from the garden to this Haugh and Brae was by an arched gateway in the rear wall, existing in 1830, and the part of the brae near the Butt Well, anciently named the Spout Well, was originally the Royal Garden, apparently a terrace, evidence of this cultivation existing up till 1845 in the wild apple and cherry trees and strawberry plants then growing on this ground. This small strip of ground, "the Haining," or enclosure, it is sad to reflect, is, with the above ruin, the sole residue of the extensive possessions anciently held by the Mar family in Stirling, now remaining to their descendants.

There is no evidence of any occupation of the mansion after the Dowager-Countess's death, and it seems to have been abandoned, and got into a state of disrepair, when the town put it into sufficiently habitable condition to lodge the soldiers brought to the town, in 1715, to put down the rebellion headed by the Secretary, the Earl of Mar himself. Such is the irony of fate. In April, 1733, the town got a lease from Lord Grange, on behalf of the Mar family, he having purchased back for the heir the forfeited estates of the attainted Secretary. It is therein described as "Mar's Great Ludging" and close and well, for payment of a blench (nominal) rent for ninety-nine years expiring in 1832, and payment of £30 scots for "the yaird," the Town Council restricting their obligation for repair to the roof, and not to the walls, to turn said lodging into a *work house* (common poor's house).

In 1734, in virtue of this obligation, the town's treasurer repairs, and charges therefor, "the west and north dykes, thrown down by the storm." On 12th January, 1746, the Highland rebel army of Prince Charlie, having got their cannon over the Forth, broke ground for a battery against the Castle between the church and the large house called Mar's Work, to storm the Castle.

The refugee Secretary, tenth Lord Mar, expresses, in his "Legacy to his Son," dated at Chillon, Geneva, March, 1726, a high opinion of his ancestor the Regent's Ludging. He seems, from his intimate knowledge of its situation, accommodation, and of its condition of disrepair, to have inspected it. After dealing with the directions for building additions to the old tower at Alloa, "venerable for its antiquity," and erection of a black



BACK VIEW OF ARCHWAY.

marble tomb in Alloa Church, he advised his son (afterwards eleventh Earl), who had been put into possession of the family estates forfeited by his treason, and purchased from the Crown by his friends Lords Grange and Dun on the son's behalf. If he (the son) recovered the family hereditary office of Keeper of Stirling Castle, "and you should not have the Castle to live in, you have a good shell of a house in the town which cost your predecessor considerably. It wants to be repaired, which is necessary to be done, and with some alterations and additions, which would not cost much, would be a very good convenient house for you to live in, as is proposed your doing in the Castle, should it be restored to you. The principal apartments of this house have been rightly made so high up that it might overlook the town and have the prospect of the country, which it has fully, and is as fine an one as is to be seen anywhere. The house is a fine appearance to the street, and, out of regard and respect to the builder, it behoves the family that is to come of him not to part with this house, nor to let it go to ruins, so recommend preservation of it to you, to keep up the character as was given by an excellent poet, though bad but great man (George Buchanan), of our predecessor, the Good Regent, your grandfather's great-grandfather, the Earl of Mar."

"Si quis Areskinum (1) memorit."

"Per bellum procem."

"Parco graven nullis."

"Tempore utrique pricem."

(1) The A seems applicable here to the Latin form of the surname ERSKINE.

Unfortunately for archæology the son followed none of his father's recommendations ; repaired neither Tower nor Stirling House, nor erected the black marble tomb in the aisle of old Alloa (St. Mungo's) Church.

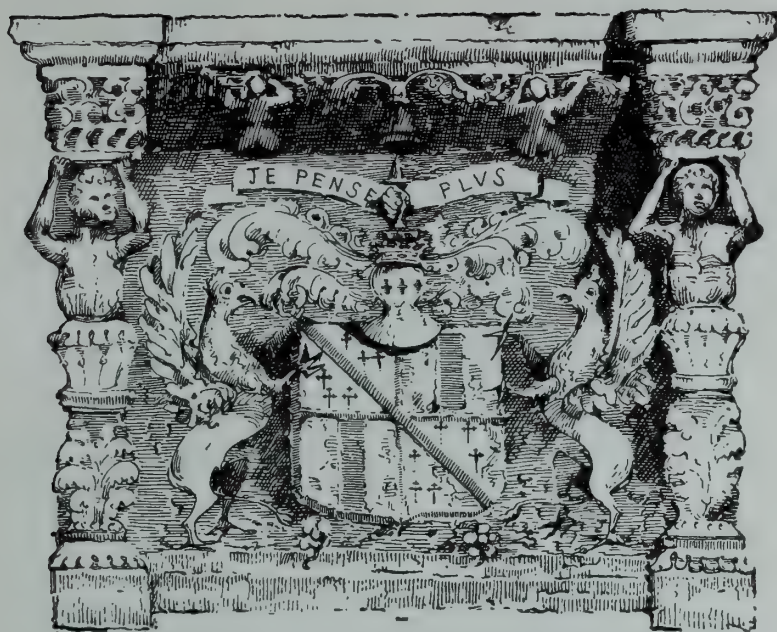


SUGGESTED RESTORATION OF MAR'S LUDGING.

The form of the completed building, which authoritative architects describe as having more affinity to the Gothic style than to the Jacobean renaissance, and resembles, in some respects, the Palace in Stirling Castle and Falkland Palace, is left to conjecture, as no picture or engraving of it exists. It has, with the inscriptions referred to, a series of sculptured figures, life-size, and a row of emblems and monograms, on each alternate stone forms the seventh course from the lintels of the base doorways, extending from gable to gable and around the two towers ; above this course, and similarly set at regular intervals, are half-length figures supporting pillars, which can be identified as cavaliers and musicians, etc., in French costumes of the period of erection, also then the fashion at the English and Scottish courts.



MAR'S LUDGING—RUINED MANSION IN 1906.

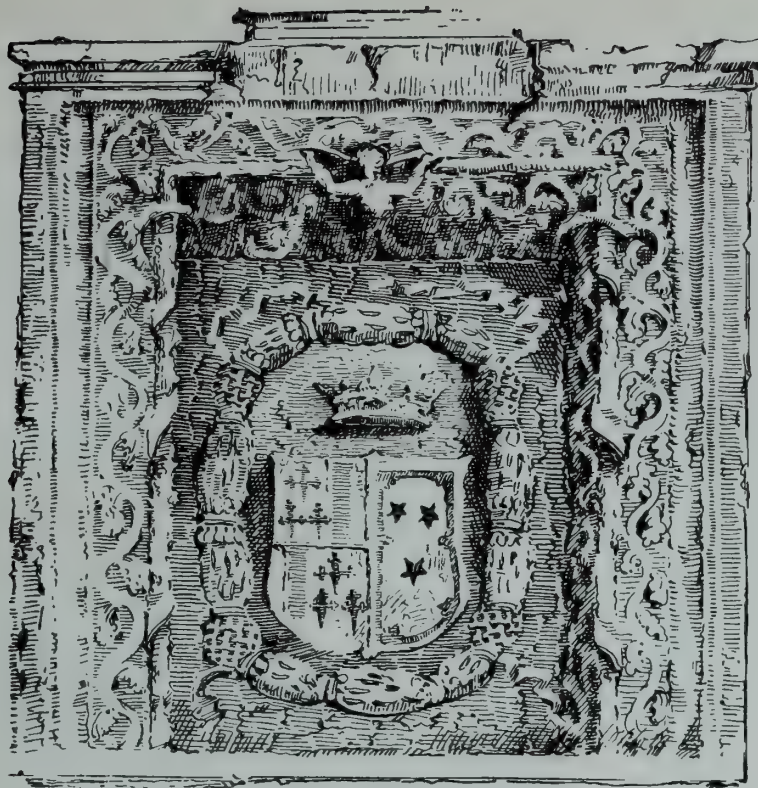


PANEL WITH THE REGENT'S ARMS.



PANEL on the south tower contains the achievement of the Regent in a shield:—arms, quarterly first and fourth a bend between six crosslets fitché for the Earldom of Mar, second and third a pale for Erskine; crest, on a wreath a dexter hand holding a dagger erect proper, with two griffons, beaked, winged, and armed, as supporters. Motto, JE PENSE PLUS (I think more).

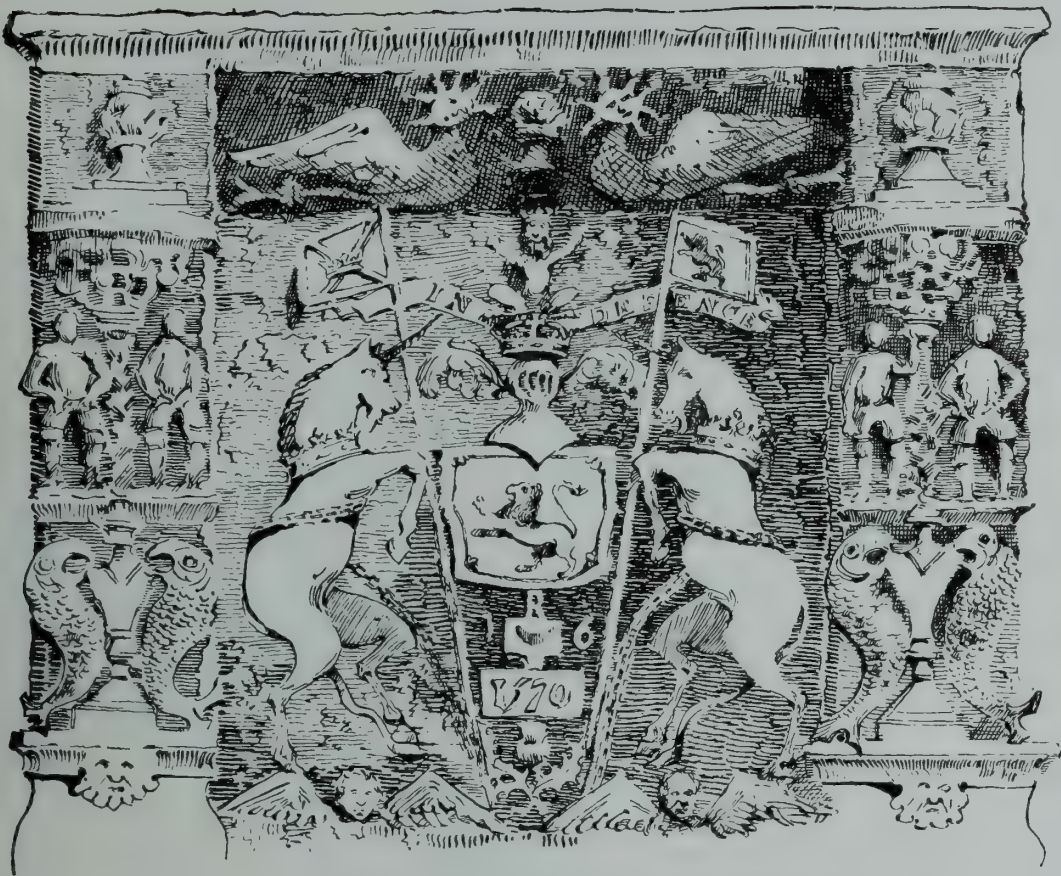
The letter A appearing in many forms amongst the sculptured emblems occasions a mystery, as in no documents of that period do the Mar family spell their surname with other than E with the exception of Killigrew's letter, the day following the Regent's death, that Alex. *Areskine*, the Regent's brother, told him there was no hope of life in Mar; and John, fifth Lord Erskine's letter to John Knox, 10th March, 1566-7, who signs Airskine. The Regent Mar's royal charter, dated 29th July, 1571, during the progress of the building, is to John, Earl of Mar, Lord Erskine, and his daughter is named in it Maria Erskine, and so in numerous other contemporary charters.



PANEL WITH ARMS OF REGENT AND COUNTESS OF MAR.



IN the north tower are the arms of the Regent impaled with those of his Countess, Annabella, daughter of Sir William Murray of Tullibardine—three mullets within a double tressure with fleur de lis, the shield surmounted by a coronet surrounded by a wreath bound by ribbons, its corners intertwined. A similar ribbon intertwined wreath appears elsewhere, on a panel inscribed with the arms of Maria de Lorraine, Reginae Scotie, widow of James V., with date 1560.



PANEL WITH NATIONAL ARMS OF SCOTLAND.



AND the large panel over the archway contains a delicately art-sculptured heraldic panel of the royal arms and crest of Scotland, the earliest public and most perfect specimen now existing so far as known. It is described in heraldic language as a lion rampant within a double tressure flory ; supporters, two unicorns gorged with collars and

chain, and each bearing a bannerette containing thereon respectively a lion rampant and St. Andrew's cross with crown. Crest, on a cushion a royal helmet with closed visor, and over it a lion sejeant affronté crowned, and holding a sceptre and orb in either paw. Motto, IN DEFENCE. Below the shield here are a thistle and initials R. I. 6 (Rex. Jacobus VI.), and date 1570 (1).

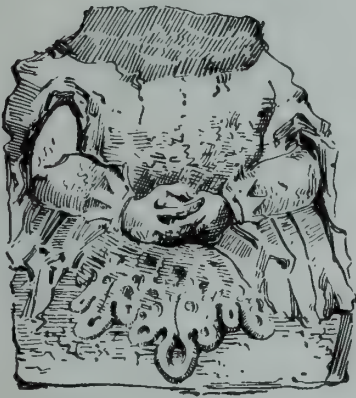
(1) A crowned lion sejeant first appears on Queen Mary of Scots' small signet (1564). There the dexter flag of the unicorn supporters bears the lion rampant and the sinister the St. Andrew's cross, and contains the initials M. R. ; motto, IN DEFENCE ; pendent a heart with St. Andrew's cross.—(Drummond's *Heraldry of Noble Scots*). The earliest use of unicorns as supporters in royal arms seems to be that on Melrose Abbey, with date 1506, and Rothesay Castle gateway shortly afterwards. One unicorn, in acouchant position, was, however, used very early. It appears on the Bishop's Castle of Spynie, Morayshire. It gave the name to a coin, "Unicorn."



SCULPTURED FIGURES.

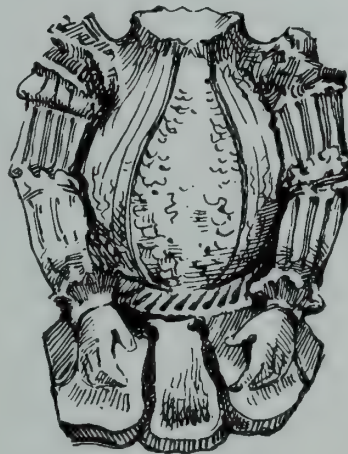


THE sculptured figures are fourteen in number, viz., twelve on the building ; one displaced, lying in ruins at the rear ; and the other, with date, before referred to ; and, although mutilated, the costumes are distinguishable.



Beginning from the south, No. 1, greatly mutilated and headless, has an ornamental doublet with short skirt, terminating in scroll work, over it a short sleeveless cloak. He has his hands clasped, an attitude which shows laced cuffs.

No. 2, in better preservation, shows more distinctly in detail the "peascod" doublet, with short scalloped skirt below his belt, which is ornamented, slashed sleeves with shoulder and elbow bands and cuffs, his hands resting on his haunches.





No. 3 is in an apparent act of meditation, his left hand, supported at the elbow by his right, holding his chin. He has a slashed doublet, shoulder-knots, and lace cuffs. His girdle or waist sash is a cord, and the two ends with tassels in front. The features are much weatherworn.

No. 4 is a striking, shaggy, bareheaded and roughly-bearded Highland soldier. His right arm, uplifted, had a sword in the hand, now gone, and on his left is a small targe called a "roundall," which protects his breast. His dress is an ornamented tunic with epaulets, short scalloped skirt and lace cuffs. His position in the north angle of the south tower overlooks the archway, as if a guard to the main entrance.



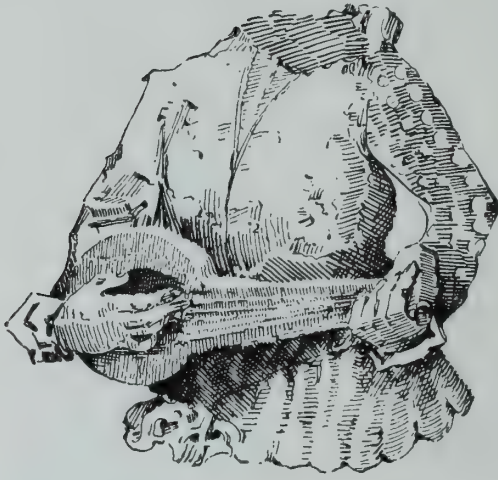


No. 5. The corresponding guard figure in the south angle of the north tower is also a military one, clad in armour, with open helmet called a "morion," showing his face, a gorget, back and breast plates, and vambraces. A short, wheel-lock arquebus, or long pistol similar to the "dragon," is in his left hand, now broken off; the fingers of the right hand are extended along the

butt, which ends in a knob, to the trigger; a powder-horn hangs at his belt. The "dragon" gave to that class of cavalry then armed with it the name of "dragoons" in the sixteenth century. It was a long pistol of 16 inches of barrel.

No. 6 is headless. He has the long doublet and short scalloped skirt, its sleeves of diagonal rows of puffed and plaited bands with lace cuffs. The left arm is uplifted, the hand of which evidently held some object, but hand and object are gone; the right hand grasps the belt.





No. 7. A headless musician, but otherwise fairly perfect, strumming a guitar. He wears the peascod variegated doublet with buttons and loops showing the under-cloth of the slashed sleeves, a short plaited skirt, lace cuffs, and a deep waist belt of an elaborate pattern with an ornamented buckle.

No. 8. A monk, in a frock apparently of Carthusian order; the hood drawn back reveals the face; a flat collar or tippet on his shoulder, his frock in folds; the sleeves of an undercoat show cuffs, his two hands clasping what seems a dog to his breast.





No 9. A comparatively complete effigy, with an undistinguishable headdress, high fluted collar, row of buttons on the neck of his doublet, which has lappels depending therefrom ; the sleeves are slashed, and a cord encircles his waist, ending in tassels. His right hand holds a nosegay to his breast, and his left rests on his haunch.

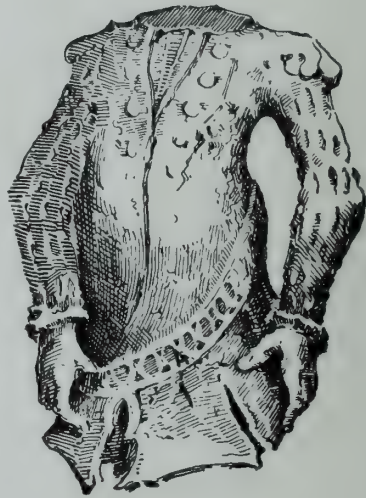
No. 10. A headless figure holding an open book in both hands, with an undecipherable inscription on its pages. He is clothed in a plain doublet with short skirt and laced cuffs, over which is drawn a short sleeveless cloak or mantle. The few letters do not compose themselves to the words said to be on the open page, "A Revel of Love Grym," but the reading from the figure's position is difficult.





No. 11, a military musician beating a side drum, is also headless. He is clothed in a tunic with epaulets, and slashed sleeves with lace cuffs; it has a double band with rows of buttons down the front; is open at the neck, and has a short plaited skirt.

No. 12, also headless, is remarkable for the length of the waist of doublet, so as at first to have been mistaken for a lady. This is open at the throat, showing his undervest, has slashed sleeves with cuffs, and the skirt a series of short flaps; the waistbelt is also ornamented. His right hand rests on his belt, and the left on the skirt of his tunic.





No. 13. This headless figure, displaced from the south angle of the south tower, has a doublet with the diagonal puffed sleeves similar to No. 11. The hands clasped in act of petition.

No. 14 is the figure bearing in his hands the tablet, with date 1572, which is presently inserted in a dwelling-house in Craigs of Stirling, and is more than probably that of the "Regent" himself, for the reasons already given, viz., a gentleman in plain dress, bearing the date of completion of his mansion, and crowned with ivy leaves. James V.'s effigy, with crown and his initials, similarly appears on the Palace of Stirling Castle, which he built, quoted above as an analogous example of architecture.





DOORWAY INSCRIPTION.



ALL the other carvings and pillars which the half-length figures support are in keeping with those on the Palace of Stirling Castle, erected in 1529 by James V., to whom French workmen were sent by the Duke of Guise, his brother-in-law. In April, 1539, "Nycolas Roy, Frenchman," is master mason for Scotland, when "six French masons," "with miners (quarriers) from Lorain," were sent by the Duke; and in 1559 Queen Mary appoints "John Koytell," apparently a Frenchman, master mason. We find that about the period of its erection work was being done on Edinburgh and Stirling Castles, and the author of the illustrated work, "Master Masons for Scotland," expresses his opinion that the two Palaces, Stirling Castle and Falkland,

bear French characteristics, with hints of the Renaissance superadded to the Gothic, after the Parisian or Orleans type. The stones used in the Stirling Palace erection were blue, hard, and difficult of being chiselled, and came from Kingudy, on the banks of the Tay, four miles west of Dundee.

The inscriptions over the three doorways are—

Over rear archway—

ESSPY . SPEIK . FVRTH . AND . SPAIR . NOTHT
CONSIDDIR . VEIL . I . CAIR . NOTHT.

On north tower—

THE MOIR I STAND ON OPPIN HITHT
MY FAULTIS MOIR SVBIECT AR TO SITHT.

On south tower—

I PRAY AL LVIKARIS ON THIS LVGING
VITH GENTIL E [EYE] TO GIF THAIR IVGING.

The inference—almost a certainty—is that the King's French architect or master mason is author of the original design.

The conclusions arrived at from the foregoing facts are—

1. That the mansion was finished by the Regent's relict, Dowager Countess Annabella Murray, and occupied by her to about 1598.
2. That no sculptured stone bears an ecclesiastical character, nor of fashions of an earlier date than the periods of Queen Elizabeth and of erection of the Ludging.
3. That the inscriptions carved anterior to the completion

of the mansion could have no reference to the public comment on a building then not existing, and are mere moral precepts.

4. That the public records of Stirling make no reference to the spoliation of the Abbey, nor of the adverse public opinion against the Regent for this act.

5. But that, on the other hand, the two kinds of stone used in building both Cambuskenneth Abbey and the Mar mansion are from the same quarries.

6. And that Adam Erskine, the Regent's nephew, was Abbot and Commendator from 1562 to 1608, when Alexander Erskine, the Regent's son, gets a charter from James VI. of the *temporalities* of the Church, and then had full right to deal with the Abbey buildings.





ALLOA TOWER.



PART VI.

FAMILY HISTORY.



MAR CREST.

THE first mention on record of the Alloa Tower is in connection with the Erskine family, the date of the erection of which is involved in obscurity. This venerable and interesting feudal relique is the oldest complete tenantable edifice in this district. It consists of a square, massive tower of three storeys—with walls six, and, in some parts, eleven feet thick, with recesses or chambers in them—about 89 feet high, with corner turrets and massive ancient porch or gateway, with the Mar crest over it, and two griffons, the Erskine supporters, carved on the side pillars.

The estate, with the Tower, is alleged to have been royal property, and to have been excambed by David II. with Lord

Erskine for his lands in Perthshire. There is no trace in the register of this excambion, but on 16th April, 1353, he gives charter to Thomas Erskine of the lands of Culenhove and Touchgorum as heir of Robert Erskyne, and on 8th November, 1376, Robert II. gives charter to the said Thomas Erskyne of the Barony of Dun. On the 12th August, 1489, James IV. grants a charter of confirmation to Alex. Erskyne, son and heir-apparent of Thomas Lord Erskyne, and his heirs, of the lands, barony, and regality of *Alway*, with the forest of Clackmannan and Mill of Alway in the County of Clackmannan, and this includes also Culenhufe, Touchgorum, and Middle Third, this being its first appearance on the registers, although long held by the ancestors of the Erskines—the father's and his wife's, Janet Douglas, joint liferents are reserved. This Alexander Erskine was married to Ellen Hume.

The Tower was occupied by the Mar families, the hereditary custodiers of Stirling Castle and keepers of the young princes (1). Many monarchs are alleged to have resided and received their education there, notably Queen Mary, James VI., and his son, Prince Henry.

The possessions of this powerful and wealthy family included the Barony "*de Alway, cum castro, fortalitie, molindinis,*" etc., and were held off the crown direct.

(1) The first appointment is by David II., dated 16th April, 1369, whereby Robert Erskyne is constituted custodier of the Castle of Stirling for his lifetime, with power to appoint vice-custodians or constables under him, and certain lands and emoluments are thereby assigned to him for the performance of his functions. The redd. was a penny payable at the Castle gate. Reg. Mag. Sig.



ALLOA TOWER, FROM THE PARK.



AS an illustration of the important possessions and offices held in Stirlingshire alone (in Clackmannanshire, Perthshire, etc., these were more extensive and important) ere the family's decline and subsequent attainder for the part taken in the 1715 Rebellion by Secretary of State Lord Mar (completing the family's fall, and leaving it in poverty), we quote a charter by King Charles I., dated 25th March, 1635, to John, Earl of Mar, Lord Garioch, as heir of John, seventh Earl of Mar: "With captaincy and custody of Stirling Castle, with the meadow, formerly Gardyne Buttis, at Gallowhills, with pasture for six horses, superiorities of the Lordships of Stirling, seneschal of

Menteith, Lordship of Buchan, etc., etc., lands and Mill of Cultenhove, Sheriffship of Stirling, Lands of Cambusbarron, with patronage of the Chapel of Cambusbarron, Abbey of Dryburgh, Priory of Inchmaholm, and Church Lands of St. Ninians; Lands, Baronies, and Churches, Teinds, and others of old of the Abbey of Cambuskenneth, etc., the Lands of Raploch, called the King's Raploch, the brae or bank called 'the Hauch' or Haining, the Tiends of Kirktown *alias* St. Ninians Kirk, etc. (1).

It is outside our province to deal with family histories, except in so far as assisting in the identification of the buildings and ownership of these ancient mansions, and the Mar family has an ancient and interesting record for historians. It is a sad reflection, this ancient and powerful family, stripped of its many high offices, depleted of its vast possessions, and impoverished by the extravagances of its members, ending with the attainder and forfeiture of its title by the unlucky and prominent part played by the Secretary in the historical Rebellion of 1715.

(1) In addition thereto, from a charter by James VI., dated 3rd February, 1620, to John, Earl of Mar, the "brae de hauch or Haining" appears, as also "St. James' Hospital at the calsyend of the Brig," and a tenement and garden on the west side of the Back Raw, between the lands of Alex. Chrystison and Robert Gichan, as also the two Mills (Burgh and Brig Mills); and in a charter of adjudication, dated 7th January, 1653, obtained by James Stevenson, Stirling, against this Earl or his son, the mansion is described as "that *Great Ludging*, with other tenements of land contiguous thereto at the head of the High Street of Stirling, with the *close yards, wells, and dovecots* thereof, with the *Haining Orchard* and *Hayening Brae*, lying contigue on the south west side."

The Old Brig of Stirling.



OLD BRIDGE



LING, 1700.



OLD BRIDGE, STIRLING, FROM THE WEST, 1855.

PART VII.

THE OLD BRIG OF STIRLING.



THE Old Brig of Stirling is the most noted public object in the kingdom. Everything pertaining to it ought to be cherished by the citizens of the City of the Rock.—*Chambers's Picture of Stirling.*

Chambers might have added, as a strong additional reason for the cherishing of the most noted public object in the kingdom, that it was erected by the Scottish nation, and its pontage dues and customs formed part of the Royal Revenues in the fifteenth century.

In the meeting-room of the Town Council of Stirling hangs a very old oil painting of this national edifice, of which Randle takes notice in his *Old Stirling* (1790) as being an *important* picture, and which originally formed one of several painted panels inserted in the wainscoting of the old Council Chambers in Broad Street, built about 1702. The above is a pen sketch of the painting, with some trifling corrections of proportions and perspective. Notwithstanding its crude and inartistic work, and a few inaccuracies of detail, the painting is of some importance as giving us, in specific form, the appearance which the Old Bridge and adjoining buildings presented at that period, and also as being the oldest existing delineation of it and of the Old Stirling Mill (Slezer's older drawing gives a mere distant glimpse, and that inaccurate, of the bridge and its gateway). From the garb of the figure in the foreground, and the appearance of the panel, the work seems old enough to have formed part of the original panelling of the room.

In the foreground, to the left of the Old Bridge in the above sketch, is the Stirling Mill, with the Custom-House, and what seems to be the Chapel of St. Roche. There ought to have been five houses intervening between these two buildings, showing that the artist did part from memory. The two other buildings are dwelling-houses. On the right is the farmhouse of Bridgehaugh, formerly called "the Seat," with mill-shed adjoining.

The passage of the Great Highway across the Forth occasioned the institution of a ferry here by the Scottish nation. after the destruction of the earlier Wallace Bridge; and this was replaced in the early part of 1400 by the Duke of Albany by the more convenient present bridge; the fares of the one and

pontage of the other were Crown "fermis" (mails), and collected by the Royal Chamberlains (*Camerarii*). During the later years of its existence, the ferry dues and the multures of the Older Bridge Mill (preceding the Friars' ownership), were leased to the town of Stirling. Thus we have :—

"3 June, 1361—*Nicolas Masoune* of Stirling," in accounting for the King's Mails, excusing the shortcoming of income for that year "by the falling off of the dues of the *Boat of Bridge* (*batelle pontis*) of Stirling."

(Is it possible that the crossing was by *bridge* of boats, and not by a ferry boat?)

"*Et allocantur computantibus, de duobus primis terminis hujus compoti, pro defalcacione firme de batelle* (boat) *pontis de Strivelyne, assedate cum burgo, de primo anno hujus compoti, 53/4.*—*Ex Rolls, Vol. II, p. 61.*

"1375—*James Reid*, Bailie of Stirling," accounts for fermis of said Burgh, except for the Mill and Boat Ferry, excluded as under the Burgh lease, "*preter molendinum et Batellam passagii.*"—*Ibid, p. 490.*

"1376—*William Halle*, Bailie," accounts for the Burgh fermis, but similarly "*preter molendinum et Batellam passagii.*"—*Ibid, Vol. II, p. 538.*

The Duke of Albany, Governor of Scotland, was in July, 1404, making extensive alterations on and additions and repairs to the Castle, and one charge appears "*et pro fractura pontis castri de Strevelyne*" (*Ex Rolls, Vol. III., p. 609*). This bridge may have called his attention to the want of one over the Forth and to the public inconvenience, the great traffic having to be shipped and unshipped on the boat, as well as danger to passengers in the crossing on so important a highway, as he devised the substitution of a bridge, and also the means of obtaining funds

for its erection by appropriating the Crown revenues, not only from the Burgh and ferry, but from other sources; these appropriations continuing over the years 1404 to 1415, thus:—

1408—The Crown relief dues payable by John Normavil, on his succession to the estate of Gargunnock, as entry. £20 is so applied.

“Quia dictus Dominus Gubernator concessit dictum relieum ad fabricam pontis de Strivelyne.”—Ibid, p. 68.

1415 (3 June)—John Forrester of Corstorphine, dep. *Camerarii*, states that the whole fermis of Stirling are not owing by him in consequence of having been expended on the Bridge.

“Per idem tempus quia conceditur dictum iter ad fabricam pontis de Strevylne.”

And in subsequent years the whole fermis are applied to a similar purpose.

“Et non onerat se de exitibus unius itineris camerarie tenta infra burgum de Strivelyne, peridem tempus, quia dominus Gubernator conceditor dictum iter ad fabricam pontis de Strivelyne.”—Ex Rolls, Vol. IV., p. 296.

It is undisputed that the original bridge was a wooden one, and that it was broken down on the occasion of the engagement known as the Battle of Stirling Bridge, on 11th September, 1297. For instance, on 20th October, 1305, Edward I. of England gave commands to his Chamberlain for Scotland “to apply the issues of a certain passage at Stirling to the repair of the bridge there, *which is destroyed and broken*, at the sight of William Bisset, his Constable in Stirling Castle” (Callendar of Documents for Scotland). These issues were the royal revenues of the ferry on the Forth at Stirling.

We next learn, from the Charter of David II., of date 1329, of a grant of 20/ per annum to Sir John of Corntoun, chaplain serving the altar of St. Lawrence, in the High Church, out of the dues of the ferry at Stirling, with an obligation to provide boats, assistants, and all others necessary or sufficient for passengers at the ferry and crossing. The consideration, *pro salubri statū regis et pro animabus antecessorum et successorum regum scocie*, etc.; *pro passagio et transitu regis et familiarium curie sub quodlibet*, etc. (*Ex Rolls Vol. III., p. 296*). This right was renewed or confirmed by Robert II., in a Charter dated 28th February, 1388, which it appears was burdened with the Crown's right to part of the revenues.

The point of this ferry was at the field known as St. Lawrence, or the Ferry Croft, at the south end of the present old bridge. It thus appears clear that no bridge existed there between 1305 and 1388, but that a wooden bridge was in existence elsewhere in the vicinity and was being repaired in 1336 during the very operation of the ferry we learn from a charge in that year for wood "from Gargunnock and carriage for repairs to castle and wood used at Stirling Bridge." Scotland was then in the English King's hands. These extracts alone, with the preceding taken from the Lord-Chamberlain's accounts, put the fact of a ferry beyond controversy (1).

In a charter of Robert III., dated at Rothesay Castle, 10th

(1) In his tour, Sylvian, the Italian Cardinal, afterwards Pope Pius II., says he crossed the Tweed at Berwick in a boat, and a note is added that although the Tweed Bridge was of an early date, no bridge existed between 1298 and 1376. This was the highway between Scotland and England. A ferry thus then seemed sufficient for the traffic on this part of the national highway.

March, 1402-3, making grant of St. James' Hospital to the Abbot of Cambuskenneth Abbey, that subject is described as "at the end of the roadway of the Bridge of Stirling." This, therefore, narrows the date of beginning the erection of the bridge; (it seems to have taken several years to complete) to the period between 1388 and 1402. The earliest appearance of a bridge at Stirling is marked on Matthew Paris map of Stirling (13th century), marked with the name "*Esterling Pons*," but from the exaggerated size of the line indicating it crossing the river, filling an excessive space of the map, its exact position beyond being close to Stirling is unascertainable.

Jamieson says there was only a wooden bridge at Kildean in time of Wallace, "when some remains of stone pillars (foundations) yet to be seen," and English contemporary historians record that they burnt the bridge and abandoned their baggage to cover their retreat.

The Chapel of St. Roch or Ma-Roch (corrupted into St. Maroch, St. Mawarroch, etc., from the term, Ma, or my, Saint, being misunderstood) was founded and endowed by James IV., by charter dated 4th December, 1502, the description, "near to the south end of the Bridge of Stirling," accurately describing the situation of the small, old, front-gabled building in the above sketch. Eight acres of Winchelhaugh were mortified with an annual rent for its upkeep; and in a charter, dated 17th April, 1561, Queen Margaret, as "patroness of the Chapel and Altar of St. Roche," confirms a conveyance by Sir John Wilsoun, perpetual chaplain of the same, to a David Ramsay, of six of these acres, on payment of £5 16s 8d annually towards the chapel. William Menteith of Randyford, who had acquired the remainder

of these Chapel lands, with consent of Jean Bruce, his wife, sold Winchelhaugh on 21st June, 1625, to Patrick Justice, merchant, Burgess of Stirling, and Ann Wylie, his spouse, at whose deaths their daughters, Alisania and Margaretta Justice, were served heiresses portioners on 21st January, 1670, wherein they are described as "The lands of the Chaplainerie of St. Roche at the Bridge of Stirling."

The ruined chapel existed in 1721, about the period of the painting, and Stirling Town Council exercised and still continues to exercise the right of ownership over this old house and the surrounding plot of ground, both having formed part of the church lands conveyed to them by a charter of Queen Mary, on 15th April, 1567.

The position of the early bridge in the time of Wallace is a moot point, the sites at Kildean and Winchelhaugh both fulfilling the conditions necessary for the strategetic working of Wallace's plans of that battle—a peninsula on the north side of the river. Opposite Kildean the land more markedly forms a peninsula, in which the English were, on crossing from the south, hemmed in and unable to extend their forces in line, than at that peninsula opposite Winchelhaugh, while it is also the nearest to Sheriffmuir, where Blind Harry says Wallace's force was encamped prior to the day of battle. From their close vicinity to Stirling, both sites may, however, claim the title of Stirling Bridge.

When it is borne in mind that the passage was on the national public route, following the old Roman highway connecting the north and south of Scotland, which is distinctly traced to cross the Forth at Kildean Ford, and not a local convenience, and this road is the shortest route to the north,

James IV. having frequently used the ferry at the Old Mill, Craigforth, near the Kildean site for crossing the Forth, in preference to the convenient Stirling Bridge, it will be seen that these favour this theory. The bridge being a wooden one, the depth of water, with consequent difficulty of foundation, together with higher tides at Winchelhaugh, have also to be reckoned with in determining the site. Ancient history and tradition define the structure as a long, low, narrow tressel bridge, with numerous piers or tressels of wood, and if the river bed, as we may fairly assume, was similar to what we know it to be at present, the physical difficulties in founding its piers of wood and maintaining such a structure in the deep tidal water at Winchelhaugh, would be insurmountable. At shallow Kildean Ford, with its stoney foundation bed, the situation for its easy erection and safety from tide, is ideal. As to the non-reference to the name Kildean in the histories of the battle, this is explained by the fact that the name only came into existence some 150 or 200 years ago when Kildean Farm was erected from the barony of Craigforth. The stray and irresponsible expressions of anglers and salmon fishermen as having discovered and seen stumps of beams or stone foundations at either site is of little more value than the fishermen's vision of the towers of the submerged city shining in the waters of Loch Neagh in Moore's song. If this ferry was sufficient up till 1402 to meet the necessities of the then existing population of Stirling, surely it is not too much to suppose that the requirements of the inhabitants of Stirling would be less in 1297 (1).

(1) What seemed an almost complete solution of the controversy was the

As Robert Chambers says in his "Picture of Stirling," the Old Bridge of Stirling is one of the most noted public objects in the kingdom, everything pertaining to it ought to be cherished by the citizens of the City of the Rock. He also says the piers are visible at low water on Kildean Ford.

"The bryg
Of gud playne burd was weill and junctly maid ;
A wricht he tuk the suttelast at thar was,
And ordand him to saw the burd in twa
On charnaill bandis (hinges) nald it full fast and sone,
Quhen ane war out, that the laiff doun suld fall.
Himself wndyr he ordand that with-all,
Bownd on the trest (trestle) in a creddill to sit,
To lous the pyne quhen Wallace leit him witt."

—Blind Harry's *Wallace*.

reported discovery at Winchelhaugh some months ago, at a very low state of the River Forth, of the foundations of stone piers of an older bridge, presumably that of Wallace's time, some 500 yards above the present. The late Bailie Ronald, I learn, made some drawings of what was visible under the shallow water, which may yet decide the question.

The dues and customs exacted at the bridge seems to have been considerable in amount, and in 1580 the customar of Culross gets part of the great customs a ponte de Strevelyn as Abbey revenues, and they were also burdened to the Abbot and Convent of Cambuskenneth with the annual payment of £ 15 6s. 8d.

The Battle of Stirling Bridge occurred on 11th September, 1297, and the English historian, Hemmingford, who writes as receiving his information from an eye-witness, relates an incident :—A Scottish Knight, Sir Richard Lunden, who had gone over to the enemy, implored Surrey not to attempt to pass the bridge, "as you are throwing away your lives, and your men can only pass over it *two* by *two*. I know a ford not far where 60 may cross at a time. Give me 500 horse

and a small body of foot and I shall turn their flank." The Scots kept the high ground on the right, and a party of them made a detour and possessed themselves of the foot of the bridge. Wallace rushed down on the column of the van, and, the rear being cut off, retreat was impossible. Sir Marmaduke Twenge recrossed the bridge, hewing his way through the Scots ranks, and was ordered by Surrey to occupy and defend Stirling Castle, he promising to relieve him in ten days. This circumstance shows that the bridge was not cut at this period of the battle.

Note.—Sir Robert Sibbald says the first bridge across the Forth was a structure of wood, a narrow flat platform affixed to a main beam, which was extended across several stone piers built in the bed of the river, and was erected by Agricola; and at low water some of the piers which supported the bridge were visible. The ancient Town Seal representation is clearly of a timber structure, but on tressels (it is similar in design to the Roman bridges shown in the school book of "Roman Antiquities"), and he adds that the *motto* accompanying this representation on the seal—*Bruti Scoti stant hac cruci tuti*—alludes to Wallace's victory and consequent destruction of the bridge in 1296.

These are supported by reference to no authority, and no timber structure could possibly survive the twelve centuries of river floods and weather strains intervening between Wallace's time, and the visible foundations of the stone piers at low water are applied to other sites on the river besides Kildean Ford.

On a gallows erected on the bridge, Archibald Hamilton was hanged by the Regent Lennox in 1571. No reason has ever been assigned for choosing this unusual place for his execution.

References are the Lord Chamberlain's Accounts, vols II., III., and IV., Kalendar of Documents relating to Scotland and Regs Mag Sigillii of the respective dates referred to in this article.

